DOUBLE ISSUE

DEC. 26, 2022 / JAN. 9, 2023

PERSON OF THE YEAR

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY & THE SPIRIT OF UKRAINE

TIME



VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

DEC. 26, 2022 / JAN. 9, 2023



TIME

ICON OF THE YEAR

Trailblazing Actor

MICHELLE YEOH

DEC. 26, 2022 / JAN. 9, 2023

TIME

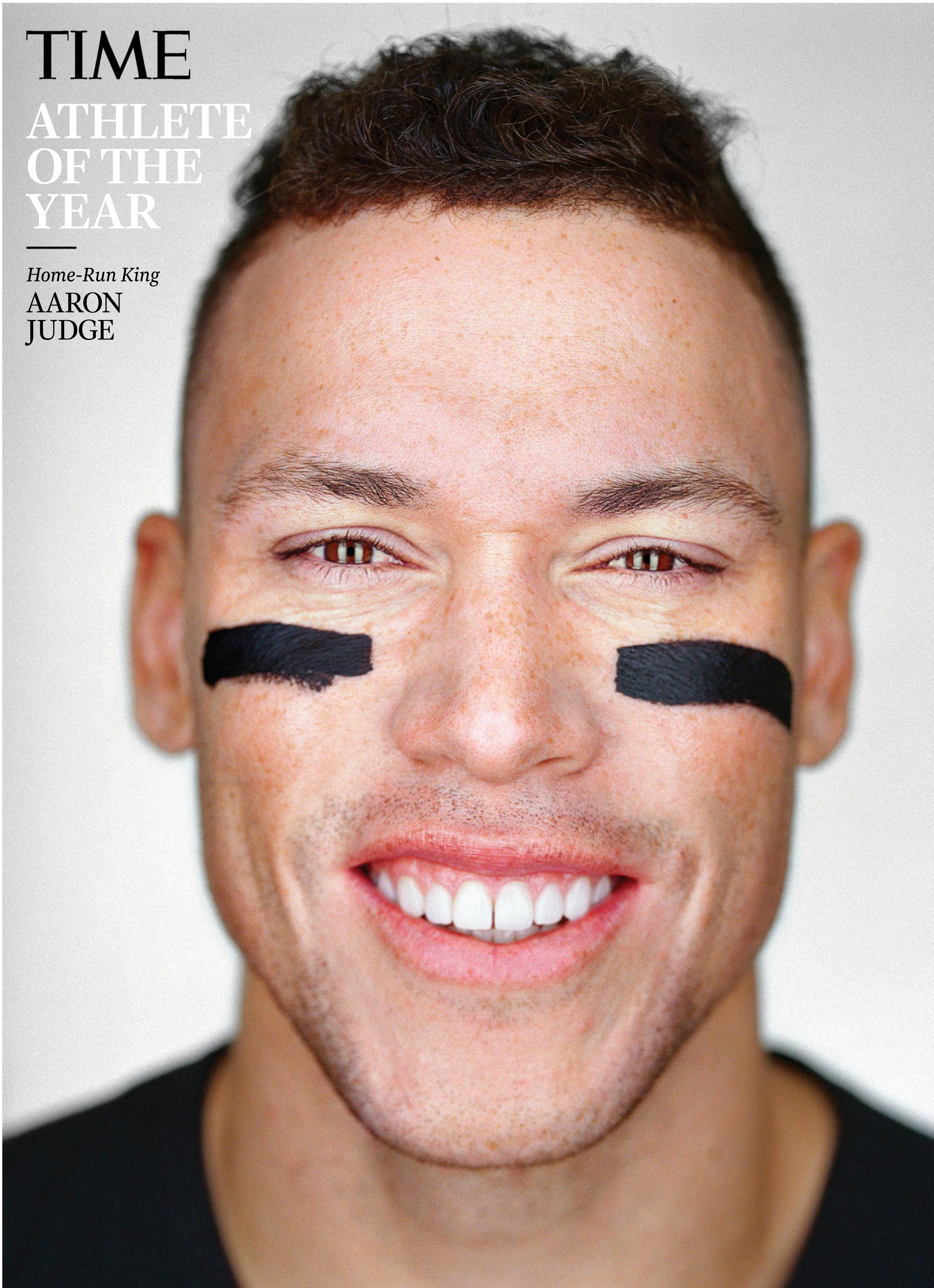
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Global Superstars

BLACKPINK



DEC. 26, 2022 / JAN. 9, 2023



DEC. 26, 2022 / JAN. 9, 2023



TIME

HEROES OF THE YEAR

Fighting for Freedom

THE WOMEN OF IRAN


WHAT MOVES YOU,
MAKES YOU
Cillian Murphy with his StarWalker UltraBlack.
Turning words into worlds.


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who move our world forward,
and boldly embrace the unknown
with integrity,
resilience
and optimism,
to create a better tomorrow
for everyone.



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Person of the Year
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Illustration by Neil Jamieson for TIME

Athlete of the Year
Aaron Judge
Photograph by Martin Schoeller for TIME

Entertainer of the Year
Blackpink
Photograph by Petra Collins for TIME

TIME (ISSN 0040-781X) is published twice a month by TIME USA, LLC. **PRINCIPAL OFFICE:** 3 Bryant Park, New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send all UAA to CFS (See DMM 507.1.5.2); **Non-Postal and Military Facilities:** Send address corrections to Time Magazine, PO BOX 37508 Boone, IA 50037-0508. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement # 40069223. BN# 704925882RT0001. © 2022 TIME USA, LLC. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. **CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** For 24/7 service, please use our website: ***www.time.com/myaccount.*** You can also call 1-800-843-8463 or write Time Magazine PO Box 37508 Boone, IA 50037-0508. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited. Your bank may provide updates to the card information we have on file. You may opt out of this service at any time. ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

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TIME

Dreamer *of the* Year

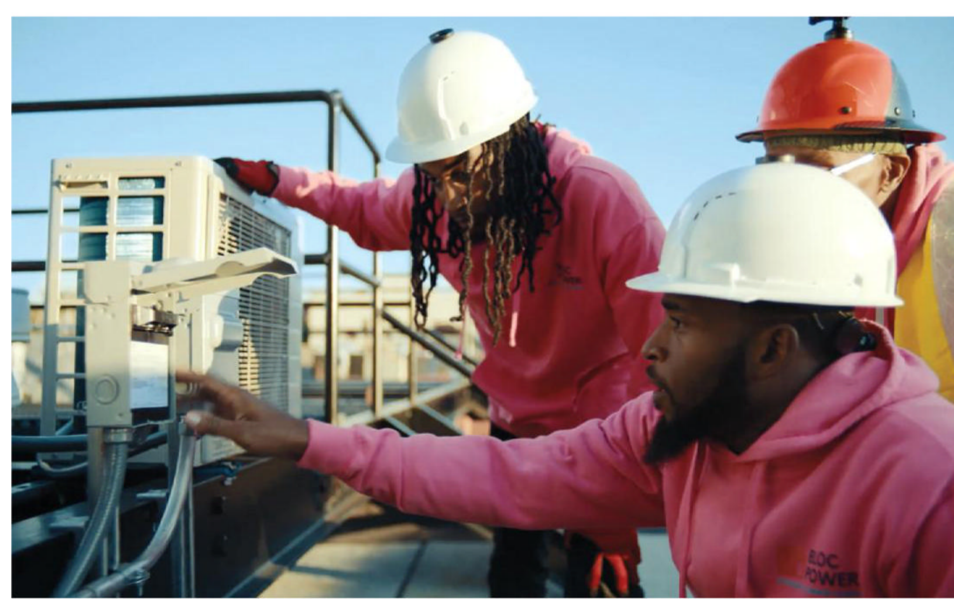
In Partnership With AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Dreamers change the world. For the first time, TIME and American Family Insurance have named a Dreamer of the Year – a person who inspires, protects and restores dreams and closes equity gaps. And no one dreams bigger than Donnel Baird, CEO and founder of BlocPower. "I grew up in Brooklyn and growing up we didn't have a working heating system, so on cold days in the winter, we would use our oven to heat up our apartment.

We would open up the window to release the carbon monoxide and toxic chemicals so we wouldn't breathe them in all night. So early on I was exposed to neglected energy systems and the kind of health and environmental impact that they could have." Baird's early life has undeniably fueled his drive for innovation.

"I started BlocPower eight years ago with the vision of bringing clean energy to the low income communities where I'd grown up and where I'd been a community organizer." America's home-energy sector is dire. Around one-third of American households struggle to pay their energy bills, and nearly 30% of U.S. greenhouse gasses come from heating, cooling, and operating buildings. BlocPower retrofits buildings with solar panels, electric heat pumps, and other green tech to lower energy bills and reduce planet-warming emissions.

And the results are tangible. Since its founding in 2014, BlocPower has worked with over 5,000 families to green their homes, saving them 20-40% on their energy bills each year.





"BlocPower's premise, what we believe and what my dream is, is that the solution to the global climate crisis will come from the people who have been most neglected and most devalued... We're going to go into those communities and build up a human and green infrastructure that shows the rest of American society how to resolve the climate crisis. And we're going to do that in time to resolve the climate crisis so that our kids and grandkids can have a shot at living the kind of life that we enjoy."

"My name is Donnel Baird. I am the CEO of BlocPower and I dream fearlessly every day."

time.com/amfam/dreameroftheyear



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Behind the scenes



FOR 2022, WE BROADENED THE FORMS OF INFLUENCE WE RECOGNIZE—SEEING LEADERSHIP FROM DIFFERENT VANTAGE POINTS

ON THE COVER OF *TIME*, THE YEAR ENDED as it began. In January, our cover featured Alexei Navalny, the imprisoned Russian opposition leader and famous dissident, who warned, in a profile by TIME senior correspondent Simon Shuster, against appeasing Vladimir Putin: "Time and again the West falls into Putin's elementary traps," Navalny said. "It just takes my breath away."

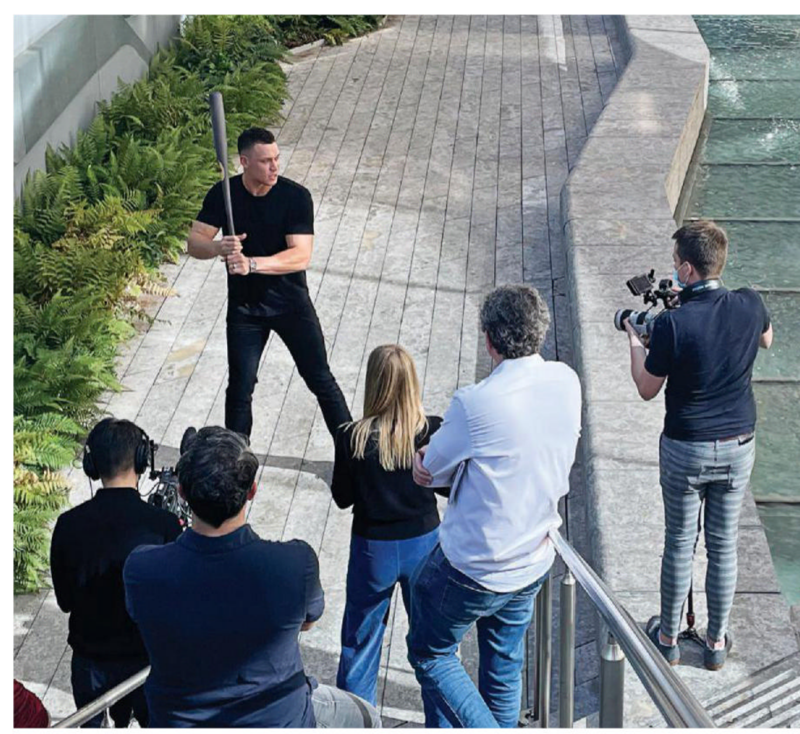
This time there was no appeasement, as TIME's 2022 Person of the Year Volodymyr Zelensky, who appears on the final cover of the year, persuaded the West that freedom was at stake not just in Ukraine but across the world. "If they devour us, the sun in your sky will get dimmer," Zelensky told Simon during a remarkable interview on a private train journey in November. Simon has spent much of the year reporting from the presidential compound in Kyiv. His time with Zelensky for this project offers an unprecedentedly intimate window into the President's thinking.

Both covers are the work of artist Neil Jamieson, under the guidance of TIME creative director D.W. Pine. The Person of the Year cover incorporates images of Ukrainians and others who represent the spirit of Ukraine that swept the world as thousands stepped in to help. We tell some of those heroic stories in this issue in a piece by TIME's Karl Vick and Yasmeen Serhan. The issue also includes images by Ukrainian photographer Maxim Dondyuk, who has worked with TIME, and with Simon, since 2014. He has been covering the war with the eye of a seasoned photojournalist and the heart of a native, and he shares extraordinary photos of Zelensky in settings no journalist has previously seen.

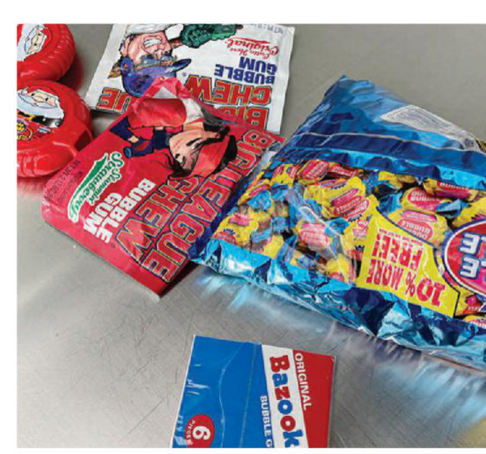
PERSON OF THE YEAR has always been an occasion to step back and think about the year through the lens of the people who helped shape it. For 2022, we broadened the forms of influence we recognize, adding Icon of the Year, Innovators of the Year, and Breakthrough Artist of the Year while continuing our tradition of choosing an Athlete of the Year, Entertainer of the Year, and Heroes of the Year.

The new recognitions have been an opportunity to see leadership from different vantage points. And each offers the exciting challenge of telling that story in a unique





^ Aaron Judge shows TIME how to hit a homer, on set Nov. 2



> Bubble gum used during Judge's shoot with photographer Martin Schoeller



TIME's Simon Shuster, left, and President Zelensky speak in the leader's private train on their return from the liberated city of Kherson

Ukrainian photographer Maxim Dondyuk, who has been covering the country for TIME since 2014





Blackpink poses for photographer Petra Collins in L.A. on Nov. 18



Roya Piraei, whose mother was killed in the protests in Iran, in conversation with Angelina Jolie

way. Sometimes that means constructing an elaborate set with a faux forest and vintage station wagon, as we did for the artist Petra Collins' shoot of our Entertainer of the Year, Blackpink. It can mean the spectacular photograph of Michelle Yeoh, our first Icon of the Year, in a sequined gown from the final collection of the late designer—and TIME100 alum—Virgil Abloh. For baseball superstar Aaron Judge, the key prop on the set for his Athlete of the Year shoot was a pile of Dubble Bubble gum. Despite being weeks away from becoming one of the highest-paid players in baseball history, the New York Yankees slugger gamely blew bubbles for photographer Martin Schoeller. "I think my parents are happy that I'm on my own bill now and they don't take me to the dentist anymore," Judge told TIME's Sean Gregory of his habit of chewing lots of the stuff during games.

One of the most challenging covers was for our Heroes of the Year. Among the many freedoms that the Islamic Republic of Iran has eroded is freedom of the press, and journalists have an increasingly hard time reporting in the country. We turned to Forough Alaei, a gifted Iranian photographer, to make portraits of the courageous women who are part of the growing movement for, as they put it, "woman, life, freedom." That story is accompanied by a heartbreaking interview by TIME contributing editor Angelina Jolie with Roya Piraei, whose mother was killed in the protests.

The images in the package were overseen by director of photography Katherine Pomerantz and senior photo editor Dilys Ng, along with Kara Milstein and Sangsuk Sylvia Kang. The issue was designed by digital design director Victor Williams, and the digital site was overseen by assistant managing editor Elizabeth Murray and supported by Audrey Clark. For the seventh year, the entire project was led by executive editor Ben Goldberger. "Influence is not the exclusive domain of the powerful," Ben notes. "I'm proud that this year's choices show that it can take many different forms."

Edward Felsenthal,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@EFELSENTHAL

ZELENSKY: MAXIM DONDYUK; DONDYUK: EFREM LUKATSKY

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> *"[Piezo timepieces]...it would shake the Swiss watch industry to its very foundations."*
> —Foundation For Economic Education

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Potential Regular Predictable Income

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Potential Tax-Free Income

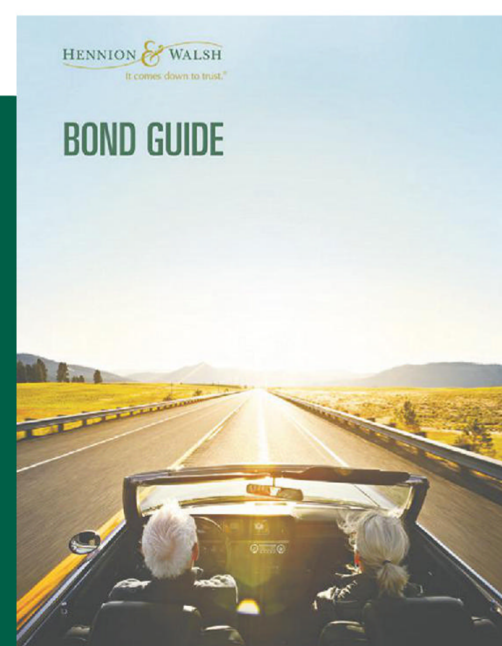
Income from municipal bonds is not subject to federal income tax and, depending on where you live, may also be exempt from state and local taxes. Tax-free can be a big attraction for many investors.

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Quotes

‘I am human. And amid these dark times, I, too, miss joy, light, and fun.’

SANNA MARIN, Finland’s Prime Minister, on Aug. 23, responding to criticism over images of her partying with friends

‘FLORIDA IS WHERE WOKE GOES TO DIE.’

RON DESANTIS, the state’s Republican governor, after winning re-election Nov. 8

‘I VERY MUCH DESIRE TO BE DIVORCED.’

KIM KARDASHIAN, in Feb. 23 legal documents, seeking to end her marriage to Kanye West, whom she described as causing her “emotional distress”



‘Will Liz Truss outlast this lettuce?’

THE *DAILY STAR*, a British tabloid, after setting up a livestream pitting a vegetable’s staying power against the Prime Minister’s; the lettuce won after Truss resigned on Oct. 20

‘Please send the police now.’

A FOURTH-GRADE STUDENT in Uvalde, Texas, in a phone call to law enforcement during the May 24 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School

‘I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples.’

POPE FRANCIS, on July 25, regarding the role of Catholic schools in the forced assimilation of Native peoples in Canada



‘I’M THE EFFING PRESIDENT; TAKE ME UP TO THE CAPITOL NOW.’

Former White House aide **CASSIDY HUTCHINSON,** in June 28 testimony, relating what then President Donald Trump reportedly instructed his security detail to do during the Jan. 6 insurrection





‘I was out of line and I was wrong.’

WILL SMITH, in an Instagram post on March 28, apologizing for slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars on March 27

‘I EXPERIENCED A RESURRECTION.’

LUIZ INÁCIO LULA DA SILVA, former President of Brazil, on Oct. 30, following an election victory over Jair Bolsonaro that will return him to the country’s top office

‘THE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE ABORTION IS RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE AND THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.’

From Supreme Court Justice **SAMUEL ALITO**’s majority opinion in the *Dobbs* case, striking down *Roe v. Wade* on June 24

‘A monsoon on steroids.’

U.N. Secretary-General **ANTÓNIO GUTERRES’** Aug. 30 description of historic floods in Pakistan that displaced more than 30 million people

‘When I was a little girl, all I wanted to see was me in the media. Someone fat like me, Black like me, beautiful like me.’

LIZZO, after winning an Emmy Award on Sept. 12 for Outstanding Competition Program



‘A stark reminder that antisemitism is still alive and we must continue to fight it worldwide.’

NAFTALI BENNETT, then Prime Minister of Israel, on the Jan. 15 hostage crisis at a Colleyville, Texas, synagogue

GETTY IMAGES (5)


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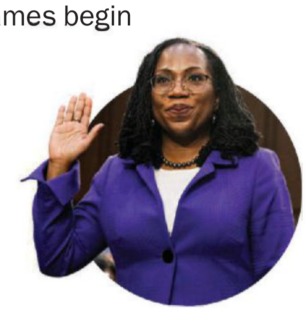

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Firsts & Lasts

FIRSTS

FEB. 4
Beijing becomes the first city to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics when the 2022 Games begin



APRIL 7
Ketanji Brown Jackson becomes the first Black woman confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court

MAY 7
An outbreak of monkeypox begins when a case of the virus is reported in London

JULY 13
The euro falls below the U.S. dollar for the first time in 20 years





AUG. 27
Tom Brady's first appearance on the field, having returned to the NFL after announcing his retirement

OCT. 31
Taylor Swift becomes the first artist to claim every top 10 spot on *Billboard*'s Hot 100 chart at once

NOV. 3
Netflix introduces ads to its U.S. service for the first time in the streamer's 15-year history

NOV. 8
Maura Healey, of Massachusetts, becomes the first out lesbian to be elected governor in the U.S.





NOV. 18
North Korea completes the first full test launch of its Hwasong-17 missile, which analysts say is capable of hitting anywhere in the continental U.S.

JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

LASTS

JAN. 23
Tom Brady plays his final NFL game before announcing his retirement





JAN. 31
Last game of Wordle before New York *Times* acquisition

APRIL 2
Men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski coaches the last game of his 42-year career at Duke University



APRIL 28
After 19 seasons, the last episode of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* tapes

MAY 23
Crews remove the last functioning public pay phone in Manhattan



AUG. 23
The last surviving member of an isolated Indigenous group is found dead in Brazil, marking the first recorded disappearance of an uncontacted tribe in the country



SEPT. 16
The Phantom of the Opera, Broadway's longest-running show, announces it is ending; its last performance will be April 16, 2023



OCT. 15
Last scheduled BTS show, after the K-pop supergroup announced its members were taking a hiatus

OCT. 21
Spain becomes the last European country to lift all of its remaining COVID-19 entry restrictions

GETTY IMAGES (8); AP (2)

CONTENT FROM SOMPO HOLDINGS



CAN GENERATION Z CHANGE HOW WE THINK ABOUT WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH?

Have you noticed how you can't open your Twitter feed, TikTok account or Sunday supplement without being reminded that wellbeing is a bit of a hot topic?

We are inundated at every turn with advice, programs, or invitations to rustic retreats, imploring us to eat better, exercise more, meditate, destress, detox, or rebalance.

Nowhere is this more apparent than amongst Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012).

Of course, wellbeing may well deserve the limelight.

It isn't a single concept or action you take; it's multidimensional in nature. It comprises key elements that help make us who we are - what makes us human:

- **The physical**—our lifestyle choices, what we eat and our level of activity.
- **The mental and emotional**—how we think and feel.
- **The social**—how we communicate and form relationships, our values and beliefs that connect us with others.
- **The spiritual**—our sense of purpose and meaning.
- **The intellectual**—our relationship with knowledge and creativity.
- **The financial**—our economic security and progress.

Wellbeing is prominent and ubiquitous in social discourse because Generation Z are probably the first generation to give wellbeing the attention that it's due.

And it is their voice that is in the ascendancy. It is to them we increasingly turn as we seek answers to some of life's biggest challenges.

THE ROLE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN WELLBEING

Given the all-encompassing nature of wellbeing, it probably does not surprise you to hear that your state of mental health is intimately related to your ability to achieve a sense of wellbeing, and hence your sense of fulfillment and happiness.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as "a state of wellbeing in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community".

Yet despite the interrelationship between wellbeing and mental health, we seem as a society to have been more comfortable talking about the one and strangely, to skip over the other.

THE IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH ON PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

No doubt our reticence has historical foundations - the stigma attached to mental health is well-entrenched in the collective consciousness, reinforced through generations of literature and art.

Our brains are primed to retrieve Goya's Madhouse or the fate of Nicholon's McMurphy in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, at the first mention of mental health problems. And our reaction is rarely intellectual, rather it comes from the gut; visceral and highly charged. We wince in pity and fear.

But despite our conditioning, the reluctance to talk about and effectively address mental health is in itself somewhat mystifying given its pervasiveness in our lives, and its cost to society.

Few of us have escaped its clutches. Who has known a life completely free of some form of mental health issue, be it mild anxiety or severe depression? And no doubt we all have known a relative or friend who has had a mental health issue of some kind or other.

We are then acutely aware of how disrupting and devastating mental health issues can be in our lives: far reaching effects not just to the afflicted but to those around us, those who are most important in our lives.

These are not isolated cases. When discussing mental health issues we really need to be thinking at scale, both at the level of incidence and social consequence.
ons.

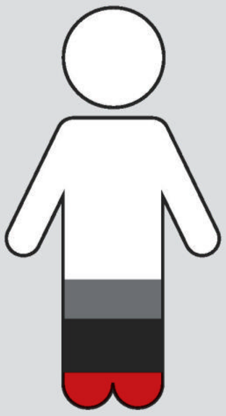
THE NUMBERS ARE DAUNTING

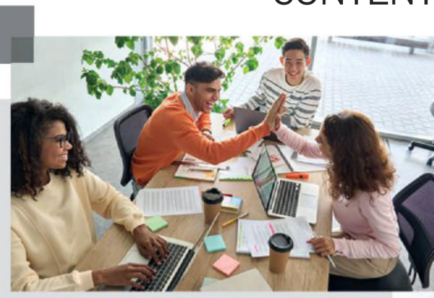
At any one time 10% of the world's population has a mental health problem and 75% of these occur in low and middle income countries.

All aspects of life are affected, from ability to perform at school or work, loss of personal income, ability to maintain healthy relationships, parenting, domestic violence, substance abuse, to unsustainable health care costs and loss of national productivity.

The World Economic Forum, for instance, estimates the yearly global cost to be around $US2.5 trillion, rising to $US6 trillion by 2030.

In the US alone, just two common mental health conditions - depression and anxiety, are estimated to cost the US economy US$1 trillion a year.









14% of youth 11-17 years with at least one depressive episode

20% of the world's children with mental condition

10% of the world's population with a mental health problem

the World Health Organization estimates that governments, world-wide, spend less than 2% of their total health budget on mental health.

YEARLY GLOBAL COST



For sufferers, early mortality is more the norm than the exception: globally, 8 million deaths each year are attributed to a mental health problem.

GENERATION Z AT RISK

Given these numbers it would not be a stretch to say world mental health is in a state of crisis.

And there is growing evidence suggesting that Generation Z suffer more than most.

Globally, those aged between 10-29 years old are most likely to evidence early onset of a mental disorder.

Around 20% of the world's children and adolescents have a mental condition (compared to 10% of the total population). Suicide is the leading cause of death among 15-29 year olds.

And it's only getting worse. Almost 14% of youth 11-17 years have had at least one depressive episode. And the rate of mental health issues in this group is increasing year on year.

What is behind the high level of mental health problems amongst the young?

Apart from genetics, poverty, or environmental pollution, the key culprits are such things as sleep deprivation, work demands and pressure, inability to cope with external stressors such as life changes, and over exposure to the anxiety-producing constant barrage of bad news on social media.

As much as one in three of us suffer from some form of insomnia. And lack of sleep has been found to decrease positive emotions and our ability to respond to negative emotional stressors. And this has been linked to mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.

Generation Z's behavioral dependency on social media is emerging as a leading contributor to an epidemic of sleep disturbance and insomnia, further exacerbating psychological stressors and the onset of mental health issues.

CHANGING OUR APPROACH

Despite the prevalence and the cost of mental health on overall wellbeing and social development, we have been guilty of dragging our feet, both in the sense of acknowledging the causes and facing the consequences of mental health problems, as well as a societal commitment to addressing them.

For instance, the World Health Organization estimates that governments, world-wide, spend less than 2% of their total health budget on mental health.

But there is hope that the tide may be turning in how we deal with mental health. And that hope resides in Generation Z.

Generation Z have a different way of approaching wellbeing and mental health than other generations such as Generation X and Boomers.

Unlike their predecessors, they are more inclined to acknowledge and activate the connection between wellbeing and mental health. Seeing mental health issues as a natural part of life, something to be faced head-on, like a physical illness, and in the facing, balance is more likely to be restored: A fruitful solution that results from open and frank discussion with family and friends, sharing or accessing advice on social media.

They are also more likely to be health-aware, engage in wellbeing-promoting activities and to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

And while Generation Z are also active healthy eaters, they seek solutions to the environmental impact of food production and more information on how food choice is linked to mental health.

On the work front, they are not shy to press employers for workloads and work-life balance that reduces stress, or to take mental health days to nurture wellbeing and pre-empt the onset of more serious mental health problems.

Despite, or perhaps because, youth suffer disproportionately from mental health issues, they are more likely to be open and talk about them, as well as to actively seek help.

Without the stigma that has historically circumscribed the private and public discourse around mental health, Generation Z are more active in fortifying, protecting and restoring it.

And this shift in approach augurs well for how society confronts mental health issues in the future, especially as Generation Z accedes to positions of economic and political power.

SOMPO HOLDINGS
YEARS AHEAD

Then & Now



Elon Musk
Person of the Year 2021

LAST YEAR, ELON MUSK SEEMED TO have escaped the force of gravity. Stock prices for carmaker Tesla hit all-time highs, while SpaceX had landed a NASA contract to put astronauts on the moon. It was, as my colleagues and I wrote in the 2021 Person of the Year profile, "the year of Elon Unbound."

But hurtling through space, one risks falling into the orbit of something else. Musk has spent an increasing share of his time on Twitter in recent years—a growing obsession that paved the way for him to buy the platform this year for $44 billion.



Musk found success on the leading edge of technological change. Twitter, though, was an aging empire, and the revolution that Musk proposed was based not on innovation but on politics. He's spent the year banging a "free speech" drum to justify the acquisition, and in the weeks since the sale went through has reinstated once banned users and even appeared to take direction from the far right over which left-wing accounts to delete. He wants to rebuild the platform, but his shake-ups have cut engineering talent to the bone and cost the company many of the moderators who helped assuage advertisers' fears over toxic content. As of Nov. 22, half of the platform's top 100 advertisers had left, according to progressive watchdog group Media Matters for America.

Observers might point out that Musk's impetuousness is what brought him success in the first place. But his brashness has formerly been checked by other forces—among them former NASA engineers at SpaceX and Tesla CTO JB Straubel, known for insulating subordinates from Musk's ever shifting demands. There are no Straubels surrounding Musk at Twitter. He may yet remake the world's information universe as he sees fit. More likely, this is Musk's white whale, his Russian campaign. To grow, one must have an understanding of one's own limitations. Wandering in an online echo chamber, Musk appears to have lost sight of his.

—ALEJANDRO DE LA GARZA

Queen Elizabeth II
Person of the Year 1952



TIME named the monarch Woman of the Year shortly after her ascension, calling her "a fresh young blossom on roots that had weathered many a season of wintry doubt."



Elizabeth had reigned for 70 years when she died on Sept. 8 at 96. The U.K. observed a 10-day mourning period, and her funeral was watched by millions.

American Women
Person of the Year 1975



While highlighting opposition to a shifting power structure—including in the form of "legal defeats"—TIME argued that feminism had spread "far and deep" in the U.S.



Nearly half a century later, mainstream U.S. feminism saw another major legal defeat when the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade,* which guaranteed the right to abortion.

Vladimir Putin
Person of the Year 2007



TIME noted that Putin's then seven years of leadership of Russia had given the country stability "at significant cost to the principles and ideas that free nations prize."



Since Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February, that war has displaced roughly 14 million and left more than 40,000 troops and civilians dead.

MUSK: ADRIEN FILLON—HANS LUCAS/REUTERS; QUEEN: MAX MUMBY—INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES; WOMEN: KEVIN DIETSCH—GETTY IMAGES; PUTIN: MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV—SPUTNIK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Guns



A memorial to the 10 people killed at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y., in May

A time of senseless tragedy— and cautious progress

BY CHARLOTTE ALTER

IN AMERICA'S BATTLE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE, 2022 was a time in which nothing seemed to change—and yet some things finally did. Another round of mass shootings seemed to echo earlier attacks in a morbid rhyme of senseless loss. But this year Congress also offered hope that the rhythm might finally be disrupted, passing federal gun-safety legislation for the first time in nearly 30 years.

Americans have said "Never again" many times before. (A cover TIME released in June, at right, drew on a motif that we have had sad cause to repeat several times in recent years, including after the 2018 Parkland shooting.) But in 2022, "again" seemed to come with alarming frequency. Ten years after the Sandy Hook massacre, a gunman murdered 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Six years after the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, a shooter killed five people in an LGBTQ nightclub in Colorado Springs. Three years after a racially motivated shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, authorities are investigating the massacre of 10 people at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y., as a hate crime. Bullets flew at high schools and colleges and at a parade in Highland Park, Ill., that was packed with young families celebrating the Fourth of July. In May, the CDC announced that firearm deaths had become the leading cause of death for American children.



In some ways, these tragedies simply continued a drumbeat of slaughter that has defined American life for the past decade. It might be tempting to read 2022 as a grim reminder of the intractability of the problem. As of Dec. 6, there have been 620 mass shootings this year, according to the independent data-collection group Gun Violence Archive, which counts incidents in which four or more people are shot (aside from the shooter). This year was on track to have the second most shootings since the group began tracking in 2013.

BUT EVEN IF 2022 WASN'T different, "what I can tell you is that it was different for me," says Kitty Brandtner, a recruiter and mother of three in Winnetka, Ill. After the shooting at the Highland Park Fourth of July parade, she started March Fourth, a nonprofit devoted to lobbying for a federal assault-weapons ban. "If not now, when?" she says. "We've got several massacres over the course of months, so what are we waiting for?"

Brandtner wasn't the only one driven to action. In June, President Joe Biden signed the first federal gun-safety law in nearly three decades, a bipartisan bill that expanded background checks; incentivized states to pass so-called red-flag laws to keep guns away from people who may be dangerous to themselves or others; set aside millions for mental health and school safety; stiffened penalties for gun trafficking; and expanded domestic-violence protections to include dating partners, not just spouses. The bill, which won support from 15 Senate Republicans including minority leader Mitch McConnell, was an unexpected breakthrough. While it fell far short of what many gun-safety advocates wanted, it was cheered as an important step after decades of stalemate. And there was motion at the state level as well: at least 45 new laws addressing gun violence have been passed in states across the country, according to Everytown for Gun Safety, up from roughly 30 last year. "I think the shift that we've seen is: let's just do what we can agree on now," says David Hogg, a Parkland survivor who co-founded March for Our Lives. "I'm just trying to build consensus at this point; I'm tired of debating."

There were other setbacks for the gun-safety movement as well. More aggressive federal legislation is blocked; the House passed an assault-weapons ban in July, but the measure has virtually no chance of passing the Senate. In June, the Supreme Court struck down New York's ban on concealed carry. When the state quickly passed a new law imposing strict restrictions on who can carry a concealed weapon, that law was also challenged. But gun-safety advocates say that perhaps the most promising development of 2022 was an invisible one: there was little midterm backlash on either side to the bipartisan gun bill, suggesting that politicians have less to fear from the gun lobby than they once did.

"We took bipartisan action on the issue, and people [who supported it] still won," says Hogg. "None of them paid an electoral price for it on either side, which shows that bipartisanship is possible." □

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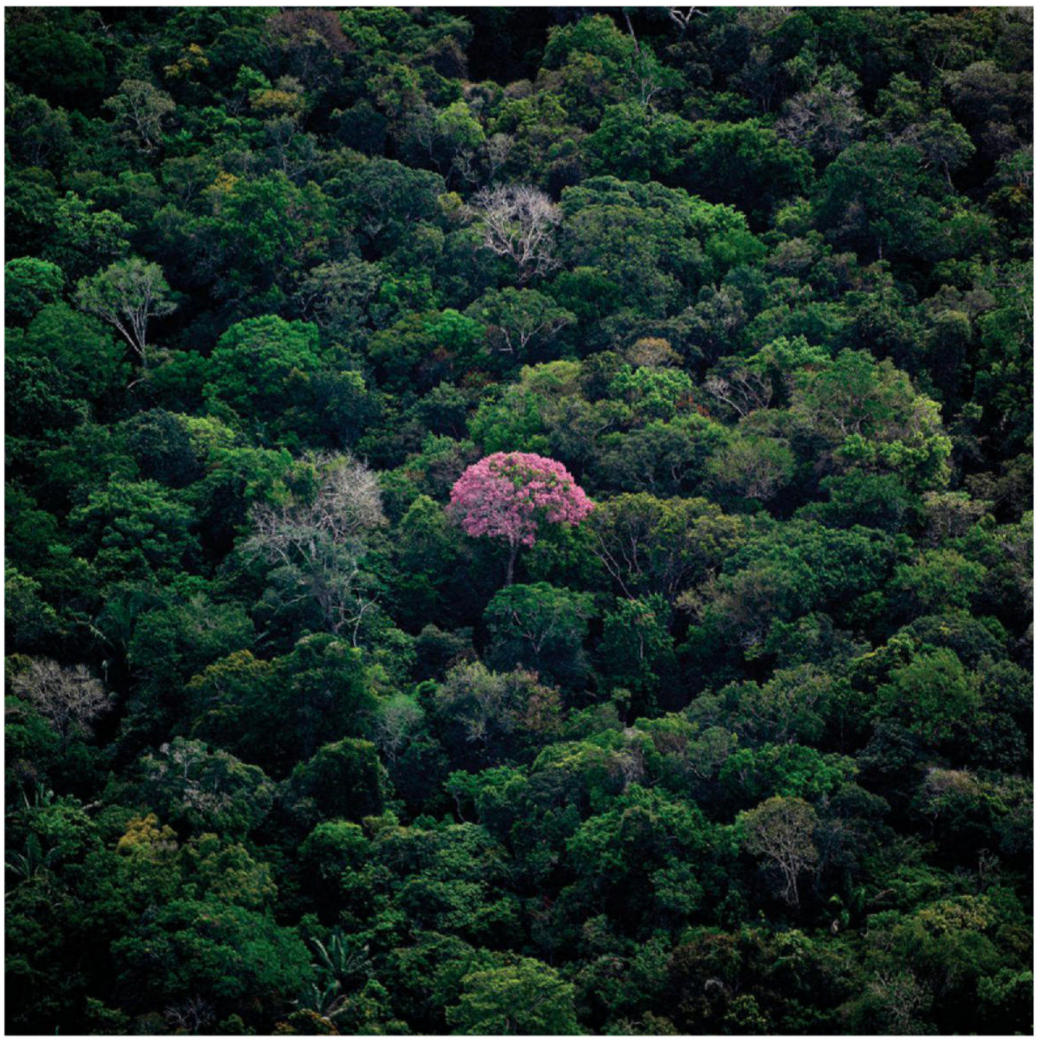
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Climate



A tree with pink foliage sticks out of the Amazon rain forest on June 6

The leaders financing the planet's future

BY JUSTIN WORLAND

UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES wrapping your head around some crazy financial figures. To transition the global economy away from fossil fuels—according to the International Energy Agency—governments, financiers, and businesses must invest some $4 trillion into clean energy every year beginning in 2030. That sounds like a lot, but it's dwarfed by the cost of doing nothing. Insurance giant Swiss Re warned last year that climate change could cut off nearly 15% of global economic output by 2050. In 2022, these numbers came to the fore as leaders grappled with the urgent need to find the green to go green.

Perhaps no single climate investment this year will go further than the $369 billion the U.S. is spending to catalyze renewables and cut emissions via the Inflation Reduction Act. After holding up the legislation for the first 18 months of Joe Biden's presidency, West Virginia Democratic Senator **Joe Manchin** struck a deal in July to bring the law's most significant provisions to life. Analysts say it will help dramatically cut U.S. emissions and incentivize trillions more in private investment.



IN 2022, LEADERS GRAPPLED WITH THE URGENT NEED TO FIND THE GREEN TO GO GREEN

Speaking of private investment, **Yvon Chouinard,** founder of retailer Patagonia, made waves in September when he announced he would donate the entire company—reportedly valued at around $3 billion—to save the planet. Future profits will be used to address climate change, not to benefit shareholders. Elsewhere, satisfying shareholders has proved a difficult needle to thread. Many investors are eager to see companies prioritize environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, but some politicians, including in Florida and Texas, are trying to block state funds from making ESG investments. Perhaps no one is under more pressure than BlackRock CEO **Larry Fink,** who has advocated for sustainable investment. He wrote in his annual letter in January that his approach represents the latest iteration of capitalism and is "not woke."

IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, too, leaders widely agreed this year that the status quo must change. At COP27, the annual U.N. climate summit, governments struck a deal to create a fund to help pay for the losses and damages resulting from climate change that will disproportionately harm developing countries. While the issue has seen many champions over the decades, **Mia Mottley,** the Prime Minister of Barbados, has emerged as a key voice for overhauling the global financial system to help poorer nations invest in climate programs without relying on costly debt. In September, she released the Bridgetown Agenda, a proposal to remake the International Monetary Fund and World Bank with climate change in mind. These ideas gained initial support at COP27 (which TIME marked with the cover at left), including from the U.S., and are seen as a key complement to the loss and damage fund. In Brazil, the election of **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** to replace the climate-change-denying Jair Bolsonaro as President led to an immediate rush of enthusiasm among climate advocates. Bolsonaro has allowed farmers to raze the Amazon with little concern for the severe climate costs. Lula has yet to take office, but has already gotten to work crafting programs to facilitate wealthier countries' paying for Brazil's efforts to protect the rain forest.

All of these developments are groundbreaking. But they are still only baby steps toward a necessary restructuring of global climate finance. ◻

MAURO PIMENTEL—AFP/GETTY IMAGES


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Silence Breakers



Amber Heard testifies on May 4 in a defamation case against her

ELIZABETH FRANTZ—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Why survivors still worry about speaking out

BY ELIANA DOCKTERMAN

FIVE YEARS AFTER *TIME*'S SILENCE BREAKERS COVER story for the 2017 Person of the Year issue, survivors of sexual assault and harassment are still fighting to be heard. Spurred by #MeToo, which went viral that October, activists, politicians, and lawyers have pushed laws that would make covering up harassment more difficult. But although they've made progress on the legal front, the risks of stigmatization and retaliation persist.

For decades, employers wielded mandatory arbitration agreements and nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) to keep claims out of the public eye. Mandatory arbitration occurs outside a courtroom, and there's no appeals process. Nondisclosure agreements prevent victims from discussing their experiences. "This is not an issue that legislators focused on much at all before #MeToo," says Andrea Johnson, director of state policy at the National Women's Law Center. Since 2017, however, 22 states and the District of Columbia have passed more than 70 workplace anti-harassment bills. In March, President Biden signed a ban on forced arbitration in cases of sexual assault and harassment. And in November, Congress passed the Speak Out Act, prohibiting the use of NDAs in cases of sexual harassment.

But the legislation "is not necessarily a silver bullet," Johnson says. And while TIME's cover story and these laws focus on workplace cases, the problem goes beyond that. In 2018, Amber Heard wrote a Washington *Post* op-ed calling herself "a public figure representing domestic abuse." Her ex-husband Johnny Depp sued her for defamation and won, with the jury awarding him $15 million this June.



'LATELY THERE'S BEEN A FALSE NARRATIVE CIRCULATED THAT YOU CAN BE CANCELED FOR ANYTHING.'

—CELESTE KIDD, professor at UC Berkeley

Many legal experts expressed concern that the trial would have a silencing effect on victims. But it wasn't just the ruling that worried them. Misogynistic memes and edited videos depicting Heard as a liar and abuser were rampant on TikTok and Twitter, a signal to survivors that they might suffer the same if they speak up.

SILENCE BREAKERS featured in TIME's story say progress has slowed. Actor Danny Masterson's rape case ended in mistrial. Louis CK, who admitted to sexually harassing women, won a Grammy in April. Outside Hollywood, the idea that #MeToo has run amok manifests in hostility toward accusers.

"Lately there's been a false narrative circulated that you can be canceled for anything," says University of California, Berkeley, professor Celeste Kidd, who spoke to TIME about her experience reporting harassment. "The rumor will be that a professor was fired for saying one inappropriate thing on Zoom. But what these posts expressing outrage leave out is that it was just one instance of a long history of racial or gender discrimination." Kidd says students "fear that their claims will be dismissed, that they'll be called snowflakes."

Gabrielle Eubank, a Silence Breaker who sued New York's Plaza Hotel with five other women in 2017, moved to Indiana in 2019 because she felt her reputation had been "ruined" in the city's hotel world. But she continued to be harassed online. "There is no way to stop it," she says. "What happened to the normal people—not the celebrities—who were a part of this issue?"

Johnson remains optimistic. She cites a September Pew poll that found 49% of Americans support the #MeToo movement. Only 21% oppose it. "While I might feel like we're taking some steps back, the public is very much moving forward," she says. "Survivors are going to keep pushing until cultural change is permanent." □



2022

PERSON OF THE YEAR

Volodymyr Zelensky a

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAXIM DONDYUK FOR TIME



nd the **Spirit of Ukraine**

THE CHOICE

By Edward Felsenthal

Editor-in-Chief

THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING THE PERSON OF THE YEAR—who or what most influenced the events of the past 12 months, for good or for ill—can be agonizing. How could one person represent an entire year? Do we lean into the light, reach into the darkness, or land somewhere in between?

This year's choice was the most clear-cut in memory. Whether the battle for Ukraine fills one with hope or with fear, Volodymyr Zelensky galvanized the world in a way we haven't seen in decades. In the weeks after Russian bombs began falling on Feb. 24, his decision not to flee Kyiv but to stay and rally support was fateful. From his first 40-second Instagram post on Feb. 25—showing that his Cabinet and civil society were intact and in place—to daily speeches delivered remotely to the likes of houses of Parliament, the World Bank, and the Grammy Awards, Ukraine's President was everywhere. His information offensive shifted the geopolitical weather system, setting off a wave of action that swept the globe.

ZELENSKY'S COMMAND OF THE WEAPONS OF THE DIGITAL AGE MEANT THAT LEADERS EVERYWHERE WERE FORCED TO TAKE A STAND

In a world that had come to be defined by its divisiveness, there was a coming together around this cause, around this country that some outside it might not be able to find on a map. At the U.N., 141 countries condemned the invasion; only North Korea, Syria, Eritrea, and Belarus—dictatorships all—voted with Moscow. Major companies pulled out of Russia en masse, erasing billions in revenues. Financial, material, humanitarian, and military support came pouring in.

Strangers took in refugees; restaurateurs fed the hungry; doctors flew in to help the wounded. Ukraine's flag unfurled across social media; its colors, blue and yellow, lit up landmarks from Tokyo to Sandusky, Ohio.

The spirit of Ukraine was embodied by countless individuals inside and outside the country. Many fought behind the scenes, like Ievgen Klopotenko, one of Ukraine's most famous chefs, known for his borsch, who provided over a thousand free meals a day to refugees in Lviv in the first weeks after the invasion. "If you have the opportunity to eat borsch, it means that you are alive," he says. Chef José Andrés brought his World Central Kitchen, serving more than 180 million free meals. Dr. David Nott, a Welsh surgeon, has traveled multiple times to Ukraine to train local doctors in how to treat war wounds. Julia Payevska, a medic, treated wounded civilians, day and night, in besieged Mariupol, as well as a wounded enemy soldier—footage of which helped her get released after three months of imprisonment by Russian troops.

All the while, journalists risked their lives to tell these stories. "The challenge is to find a way to talk about it so that the world continues to care," says Olga Rudenko, the editor of the Kyiv Independent.

ZELENSKY HAS BEEN laser-focused on keeping the world's eyes on Ukraine. The former entertainer understood innately that attention is the planet's most valuable currency and all but cornered the global market. He did this through meticulous image-building and repetition in his message. He was blunt, sometimes sarcastic, and always directly to the point: we must save Ukraine to save democracy. In an alternate reality where someone else had been leading Ukraine, there might or might not be a Russian flag flying over the parliament building in Kyiv. There would almost certainly still be a McDonald's near Moscow's Red Square, that symbol of post-Cold War globalization. Zelensky's command of the weapons of the digital age meant that business leaders and politicians everywhere were forced to take notice and take a stand, whether they liked it or not.

Zelensky has earned his share of criticism. His decision to downplay the threat of invasion, including failing to share with his fellow citizens U.S. intelligence that it was imminent, infuriated many in his country. The cavalcade of visiting celebrities and fashion magazine shoots are calculated to keep attention on the crisis but can at times seem out-of-touch amid the killing. Others question whether he is committed enough to liberating his country from Vladimir Putin's terror without also triggering World War III. Zelensky himself acknowledges it is too early to say whether his efforts will lead to success. "Later we will be judged," he tells TIME's Simon Shuster, in a two-hour conversation on the President's railcar en route to Kyiv from a visit to newly liberated Kherson. (Perhaps no reporter has spent more time with Zelensky and his inner circle this year than Simon, a source of great insight for TIME's readers.)

The impact of this story on 2022 is the essence of what Person of the Year was designed to capture, the idea that fateful events on the global stage are shaped—for better and worse—by the talents, priorities, fears, and foibles of individual human beings. "I didn't vote for him," Alona Shkrum, a member of parliament from an opposition party, says of Zelensky. But she adds, "We owe him the fact that we survived."

FOR PROVING THAT COURAGE can be as contagious as fear, for stirring people and nations to come together in defense of freedom, for reminding the world of the fragility of democracy—and of peace—Volodymyr Zelensky and the spirit of Ukraine are TIME's 2022 Person of the Year.

2022
PERSON OF THE YEAR

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

BY SIMON SHUSTER

The call from the President's office came on a Saturday evening:

Be ready to go the next day, an aide said, and pack a toothbrush. There were no details about the destination or how we would get there, but it wasn't difficult to guess. Only two days earlier, on the 260th day of the invasion of Ukraine, the Russians had retreated from the city of Kherson. It was the only regional capital they had managed to seize since the start of the all-out war in February, and the Kremlin had promised it would forever be a part of Russia. Now Kherson was free, and Volodymyr Zelensky wanted to get there as soon as possible.

His bodyguards were urging him to wait. The Russians had destroyed the city's infrastructure, leaving it with no water, power, or heat. Its outskirts were littered with mines. Government buildings were rigged with trip wires. On the highway to Kherson, an explosion had destroyed a bridge, rendering it impassable. As they fled, the Russians were also suspected of leaving behind agents and saboteurs who could try to ambush the presidential convoy, to assassinate Zelensky or take him hostage. There would be no way to ensure his safety on the central square, where crowds had gathered to celebrate the city's liberation, within range of Russian artillery.

"My security was 100% against it," the President told me during the trip. "They took it hard. They can't control practically anything in a region that has just been de-occupied. So it's a big risk, and, on my part, a bit reckless."

Then why do it? The Russian goal at the start of the invasion had been to kill or capture Zelensky and decapitate his government. Why give them a chance to strike? The obvious

Zelensky aboard the presidential train between Kyiv and Kherson on Nov. 14

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAXIM DONDYUK FOR TIME



reason had to do with the information war, which had become Zelensky's specialty. By rolling into the city that Vladimir Putin still claimed as his own, the leader of Ukraine would blow a hole through the stories of conquest and imperial glory that Russian propagandists had been using for months to justify the war. Zelensky's visit would deepen the embarrassment of the Russian retreat and strengthen the Ukrainian will to carry on through the winter.

But that was not the reason he gave for the trip. "It's the people," he told me in a two-hour interview as his private train rolled through the country. "Nine months they've been under occupation, without light, without anything. Yes, they've had two days of euphoria over their return to Ukraine. But those two days are over." Soon the long road to recovery would come into view, and many of his citizens would want a return to normality, much faster than the state can deliver it. "They are going to fall into a depression now, and it will be very hard," Zelensky explained. "As I see it, it's my duty to go there and show them that Ukraine has returned, that it supports them. Maybe it will give them enough of a boost to last a few more days. But I'm not sure. I don't lull myself with such illusions."

OUR RENDEZVOUS POINT for the trip was outside a firehouse, in a part of central Kyiv that was without electricity when the photographer and I arrived the following evening. Russian missiles have damaged or destroyed much of Ukraine's power grid since the start of October, a concerted effort to make the winter as painful as possible for the civilian population. People out walking their dogs used their phones to light the sidewalks. Even the central bazaar was in darkness, though the vendors inside were still selling fresh fruit and cheese, pickles, and pork belly by the glow of electric lanterns. When we passed them, lugging our bulletproof vests and helmets, we made sure to grab some food for the road. "Bring snacks," one of Zelensky's aides had warned in a text message. "These trips tend to be very disorganized."

You wouldn't know it from the black van that arrived to pick us up, as agreed, at 7:30 p.m. on the dot, and brought us through the checkpoints that surround the government district. The area had become familiar to me since the start of the invasion. For nearly nine months, Zelensky's team had allowed me to spend much of my time here, working inside the presidential compound and reporting on the ways they have experienced the war and how it has transformed them—and him. The blackouts gave the place a haunted look. Soldiers peered out of pillboxes hidden among the trees, and flashlight beams flickered in the windows of Zelensky's office on the fourth floor. "Do you have documents on you?" asked one of the guards. "Good, then we'll know how to mark your grave if you fall behind the convoy." The joke made his comrades double over with laughter.

That night, the presidential train took about nine hours to travel the length of Ukraine from north to south. Most of the compartments were taken up by the security men, who rested their assault rifles on the luggage racks, kicked up their feet, and watched movies on their phones. They had never seen reporters on this train before, and their only request was that we not take any photos of Zelensky's private carriage. "If the Russians find it, that's a bull's-eye," one of them explained.



Since the start of the invasion, air traffic over Ukraine has been limited to fighter jets, drones, bombers, and cruise missiles. The train has become the President's primary means of long-distance travel. From the outside, his carriage is indistinguishable from a regular passenger car. Inside, my expectations of a high-tech command center on wheels, or at least a well-stocked bar, did not pan out. There was no internet on board, and the amenities were modest. A first-class ticket on Amtrak would offer more space to stretch out.



The President meets with military advisers in a hidden bombproof bunker near the front lines close to Kherson

MAXIM DONDYUK FOR TIME

But Zelensky says he enjoys the train. It gives him time to read, and the experience reminds him of his childhood. When he was growing up, his father worked as a systems manager in the copper mines of Mongolia, and the trips to visit him would take eight days on the railroad from their hometown of Kryvyi Rih in central Ukraine, passing all the way through Russia and Siberia. He remembers the journeys fondly—the vast expanses of the Soviet empire rolling by, the glasses of tea served in metal cup holders embossed with the hammer and sickle. It is among the many ironies of his predicament that Zelensky was raised in the empire whose revival he is now fighting to stop.

For most of his life, he felt nostalgia for the culture and history Ukraine shared with Russia. "There were these amazing Soviet comedies," Zelensky told me. Among his heroes growing up were filmmakers like Leonid Gaidai, whose works were heavily censored but still charming and often hilarious; one depicted Ivan the Terrible swapping lives with a superintendent at a Soviet apartment building. "These are the classics of my generation, but I'm incapable of watching them now," the President says. "They revolt







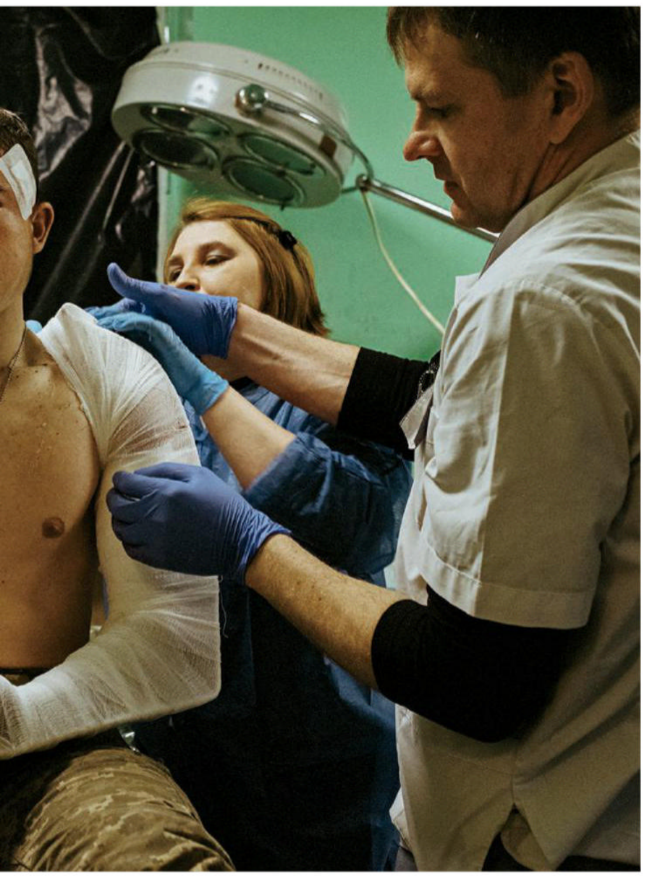


me." Memories of his youth are now colored by the atrocities that Russian forces committed this year in service of Moscow's imperial ambitions.

In April, less than two months into the invasion, Zelensky told me he had aged and changed "from all this wisdom that I never wanted." Now, half a year later, the transformation was starker. Aides who once saw him as a lightweight now praise his toughness. Slights that might once have upset him now elicit no more than a shrug. Some of his allies miss the old Zelensky, the practical joker with the boyish smile. But they realize he needs to be different now, much harder and deaf to distractions, or else his country might not survive.

EARLY IN THE MORNING, the train came to a stop in an industrial lot in the region of Mykolaiv, where a convoy of vans and SUVs was waiting to drive us the rest of the way to Kherson. The devastation of the war soon appeared on both sides of the highway: bus stops pocked with shrapnel gashes, twisted shells of bombed-out buildings, a family restaurant in the shape of a castle that looked as if it had been strafed with a chain gun. The damage around Mykolaiv was worse than in most of the country, because it was here that the Ukrainians managed to stop the Russian advance from the south in March.

A dozen or so governors, ministers, and generals were waiting on Kherson's central square when we arrived. They posed and took selfies in front of the graffiti scrawled on the facade of the regional parliament: GLORY TO THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE! GLORY TO THE HEROES! One of Zelensky's aides, Dasha Zarivna, grew up in Kherson, and she looked close to tears as she gazed at the Ukrainian flags flying over the square. "I was scared I'd never see this place again," she told me. "And here we are."






Top row, from left: an evacuating family in their car, with a sign that reads "children"; a wounded soldier at a hospital in the Donbas region; exhuming mass graves near Izyum. Bottom row: Ukrainian soldiers in the Donetsk region; firefighters clear debris from a Kharkiv building damaged by an airstrike; inside a bomb shelter beneath a children's hospital in the first days of the invasion

THESE AND NEXT PAGES: MAXIM DONDYUK

The first explosion sounded a few minutes later. Everyone froze, looking up at the sky for a shell to come arcing down. Then came another boom, which sounded closer than the first. Someone suggested it was outgoing artillery fire, though this seemed more like an optimistic guess. The Russians had retreated to the left bank of the Dnipro River, about a mile away. The blasts continued to sound, but Zelensky did not seem bothered by them. He declined, as usual, to wear a helmet or bulletproof vest.

At the edge of the square, the soldiers had installed a Starlink Internet terminal, plugging its satellite antenna into a diesel generator. The President took out his phone and asked for the wi-fi password. Most of the people around him were armed with assault rifles, but this was his weapon, a late-model iPhone that Zelensky has used to wage the biggest land war of the information age. His skill at addressing the world through that phone—in his nightly speeches on social media, in his endless calls with foreign leaders and supporters—has been as critical as the number of tanks in his army.

Zelensky has dialed into the World Economic Forum in Davos and the NATO summit in Madrid. He has granted interviews to talk-show hosts and journalists and held live chats with students at Stanford, Harvard, and Yale. He has leveraged the fame of entertainment superstars to amplify his calls for international support. Jessica Chastain and Ben Stiller visited his fortified compound. Liev Schreiber agreed





Ukrainians pass destroyed bridges in the city of Chuhuiv

to become an ambassador for Ukraine's official fundraising platform. Sean Penn brought an Oscar statuette to Kyiv and left it with Zelensky. Once, the President allowed a team of technicians to create a 3D hologram of his likeness, which was later projected at conferences around Europe. "Our principle is simple," says Andriy Yermak, the President's chief of staff. "If we fall out of focus, we are in danger." The attention of the world serves as a shield.

The effect has been a kind of virtual omnipresence that has at times grown tedious for some of Zelensky's own citizens. "We're always looking for new formats," says Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the presidential adviser who oversees the TV marathon beaming Zelensky's message into Ukrainian homes. "But sooner or later people get tired of the flood of news." And they have started tuning out.

The liberation of Kherson gave the nation a rare chance to celebrate. A crowd had gathered in the center of the square, and someone shouted, "Glory to Ukraine!" The response was a chorus, mostly of women's voices: "Glory to the heroes!" To the frustration of his security, Zelensky went over to greet them, and the throng surged forward as he approached. Reporters rushed up from behind, locking the President in a crush that his guards could not control. One soldier, his back to the President, had terror in his eyes as he scanned the faces in the crowd for threats. Zelensky smiled and waved. "How are you?" he said. "You alright?"

Turning the tide of the war



April 1
Ukraine after Russia's initial advance

ZELENSKY'S SUCCESS as a wartime leader has relied on the fact that courage is contagious. It spread through Ukraine's political leadership in the first days of the invasion, as everyone realized the President had stuck around. If that seems like a natural thing for a leader to do in a crisis, consider historical precedent. Only six months earlier, the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani—a far more experienced leader than Zelensky—fled his capital as Taliban forces approached. In 2014, one of Zelensky's predecessors, Viktor Yanukovych, ran away from Kyiv as protesters closed in on his residence; he still lives in Russia today. Early in the Second World War, the leaders of Albania, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Poland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Yugoslavia, among others, fled the advance of the German Wehrmacht and lived out the war in exile.

There wasn't much in Zelensky's biography to predict his willingness to stand and fight. He had never served in the military or shown much interest in its affairs. He had only been President since April 2019. His professional instincts derived from a lifetime as an actor on the stage, a specialist in improv comedy, and a producer in the movie business.

That experience turned out to have its advantages. Zelensky was adaptable, trained not to lose his nerve under pressure. He knew how to read a crowd and react to its moods and expectations. Now his audience was the world. He was determined not to let them down. His decision to stay at the compound in the face of possible assassination set an example, making it more difficult for his underlings to cut and run. "Anyone who left is a traitor," Ruslan Stefanchuk, the speaker of Ukraine's parliament, told its members a few hours after the invasion started.

Instead of running for their lives, many Ukrainians grabbed whatever weapons they could find and ran to defend their towns and cities against an invading force armed with tanks and attack helicopters. "Military theory does not account for regular dudes with track pants and hunting rifles," Ukraine's top military commander, General Valeriy Zaluzhny, told me in describing the defense of Kyiv during the invasion's first weeks.

How much credit does Zelensky deserve for that defense? In the early hours of the invasion, the President was informed that Russia was attempting to fly thousands of troops to the gates of Kyiv in military cargo planes, and he gave orders to stop those planes from landing at any cost. One of his advisers, Mikhailo Podolyak, had never seen his boss that furious. "He gave the harshest possible orders: Show no mercy. Use all available weapons."

But the armed forces of Ukraine did not need special dispensation to defend the airport where the Russian planes were headed. The machinery of Ukraine's resistance was already in motion, and Zelensky was not at the wheel. He had spent months downplaying the risk of a full-scale invasion, even as U.S. intelligence agencies warned that it was imminent. When it started, he gave his generals the freedom to lead on the battlefield, and focused instead on the dimension of the war where he could be most effective: persuading the world that Ukraine must win at any cost. "Do prove that you are with us," he said in a speech to the European Parliament in the first week of the invasion. "Do prove that you will not let us go. Do prove that you are indeed Europeans, and then life will win over death, and light will win over darkness."

From Kherson's central square, the presidential convoy



Dec. 1
After repelling Russian forces and reclaiming territory

headed out of the city, making stops along the way to honor and acknowledge its defenders. The first was a ceremony where Zelensky handed out medals to a few dozen soldiers, including at least one American volunteer who had participated in the city's liberation. Another was a warehouse converted into a hub for humanitarian aid, piled high with boxes of canned fish, toilet paper, vegetable oil, and spaghetti. The workers went about their business as Zelensky looked around. One man at the wheel of a forklift seemed annoyed when the presidential entourage got in his way, and the machine beeped loudly as we tried to maneuver around him.

The reception was not much grander at the final stop on the agenda, a meeting with the military command in their bombproof bunker. It was hidden beneath an old machine works, accessible through a heavy metal door. A dark corridor brought us to a space packed with the bunk beds of soldiers and officers. One of them continued napping through most of our visit, then sat up in bed, pulled his uniform over his long johns, and went back to work. No one stood at attention or saluted the visiting commander in chief. In the mess hall, lunch was served in plastic bowls and paper cups: rice with ragù, sausage soup with day-old bread. Kherson remains a city at war. That morning, the Ukrainians had spotted a Russian surveillance drone hovering over the President. It was watching him, and they were watching it. Ukrainian security services are actively hunting Russian agents. "They live among us," Zelensky told me. "In apartments, in basements, among the civilians, and we have to expose them, because that's a major risk."

After his meal, Zelensky walked to the other side of the bunker, where officers had prepared a military briefing. Everyone was asked to leave their phones at the door of the conference room. Inside, a battle map hung on the wall, showing how the invaders had positioned themselves behind two dangerous obstacles, which they now intended to use as shields. To advance from the west, the Ukrainians would need to cross the Dnipro under a likely hail of artillery and machine-gun fire. To advance from the north, they would run into Ukraine's largest nuclear power plant, which the Russians had occupied in early March. Its reactors now stand on the front lines, and Zelensky understood that pushing forward around that area would risk catastrophe. He had to consider what the Russians, in retreat, might do with those reactors.

Such questions are no longer foreign to Zelensky. He has been grappling with them for months, developing ways to structure his thoughts around dilemmas that might once have overwhelmed him. "There used to be this lightweight quality to him," one of his military advisers, Oleksiy Arestovych, told me. "Quick movements, quick decisions, lots of talking, jokes. Now you see a kind of bruiser," he says, narrowing his eyes and pushing his shoulders forward in imitation. "He's lost that actorly quality, and he's turned into a boss."

When it comes to battlefield decisions, Zelensky usually focuses on human lives—how many would be lost if we take this path? "We could have pushed into Kherson earlier, with greater force. But we understood how many people would have fallen," he says. "That's why a different tactic was chosen, and thank God it worked. I don't think it was some genius move on our part. It was reason winning out, wisdom winning out against speed and ambition."

THE SUN WAS CLOSE to setting by the time we got back to the train. Its locomotive idled at a distance from the nearest station. On normal days—if any wartime days can be considered normal—Zelensky and his staff are in a perpetual hurry. They speak to each other in bursts of information, status reports, and military briefings, jumping from one agenda item to the next. The routine slows when they are traveling. The train creeps along at a dreary pace on purpose. In case of a rocket strike on one of the wagons, the others would sustain less damage at that speed, and more passengers would be likely to survive. "It gives us a chance to speak in peace," says Denys Monastyrsky, the Minister of Interior, who has accompanied the President on some of his trips. "We talk about our private worries, our families, our kids."

For most of this year, Zelensky lived apart from his wife and their two children. The main reason is security; his presence would put them at greater risk. But he also feels it would be wrong to resume their domestic habits while so many Ukrainian families remain separated by the war. Millions of refugees from Ukraine are living abroad, mostly women and children, while men of fighting age are prohibited from leaving the country without special permission, which is not granted readily under the terms of martial law.

Still, Zelensky sees his family much more often now than in the first weeks of the war. During a recent visit, his 9-year-old son, Kyrylo, surprised his father with his expertise in military matters. Zelensky seemed proud of the

boy's new interests. "He studies it all. He looks it up online. He talks to the bodyguards," the President told me. "He's a fan of our armed forces, our army, and he knows deeply what our mission is, what we're liberating, what weapons we have and what we're missing."

As the train started moving back toward Kyiv, Zelensky asked me to join him in his private carriage. The blinds were closed. A narrow sofa stood against one wall, and a swirl of documents covered a conference table. It would be our fifth interview since he decided to run for President in 2019, and the impact of that decision was written on his features. His face has a careworn quality now, with fatigue and layers of pain around the eyes.

Sitting across from me, Zelensky ordered coffee, picked up a paperback book, and looked it over. It was about the lives of Hitler and Stalin during World War II, a comparative study of the two tyrants who had tormented Ukraine the most. Zelensky had not had time to read it yet, but such works of history and biography have long been among his travel companions. Before he decided to run for President, Zelensky had devoured a book about Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father of Singapore, whose brutal war against corruption has earned him renown and respect in Ukraine. Zelensky has been accused by critics of exhibiting some of the same authoritarian tendencies, stripping the power of the oligarchs and seeking to imprison political opponents whom he considers treasonous.

Since taking office, Zelensky has read about Winston Churchill, the historical figure to whom he has most often been compared in recent months. Yet he recoils at the suggestion that they have anything in common. "People say different things about him," Zelensky notes dryly, making clear that he has no admiration for Churchill's record as an imperialist. Ukraine's President would prefer to be associated with other figures of Churchill's era, like the author George Orwell, or with the great comedian who lampooned Hitler in the middle of the Holocaust. "I've raised the example of Charlie Chaplin," Zelensky told me on the train, "how he used the weapon of information during the Second World War to fight against fascism. You see, there were these artists who helped society, because they had a lot of admirers, and their influence was often stronger than artillery."

As the train moved out of the battlefield regions and picked up a bit of speed, it became clear that Zelensky seeks much more than battlefield victories. What he wants to achieve during his tenure is to break the cycle of oppression and tragedy in which Ukraine has been trapped for generations. During his childhood, Zelensky's grandmother would talk about the time when Soviet soldiers came to confiscate the food grown in Ukraine, its vast harvests of grain and wheat, all carted away at gunpoint. It was part of the Kremlin's attempt, in the early 1930s, to remake Soviet society, and it led to a catastrophic famine known as the Holodomor—"murder by hunger"—that killed at least 3 million people in Ukraine.

This topic was taboo in Soviet schools, including those where both of Zelensky's grandmothers worked as teachers. One taught the Ukrainian language; the other taught Russian. But they would mention the history of the famine at home. "They talked about it very carefully," he says, "that there was this period when the state took away everything, all the food." That these policies resulted in the death of





Top row: two friends, ages 10 and 11, establish a checkpoint near their damaged homes in the Kharkiv region; Stefania, 95, lives in a bomb shelter in the city of Chuhuiv. Bottom: Volodymyr, 76, cooks in the courtyard of his home in the village of Vilkhivka; the remains of a destroyed Russian helicopter in the village of Malaya Rohan in May









MAXIM DONDYUK

millions only became widely acknowledged across Ukraine in the 1990s, when Zelensky was in high school. "We would find these things when the internet appeared," he says. "The world became more open, and we began to learn."

The topic of the Holocaust was discussed much more openly and frequently in Zelensky's home. Both of his parents are Jewish. His mother's side of the family survived the war in large part because some of them were evacuated by train to Uzbekistan as the German occupation of Ukraine began. Many of Zelensky's relatives on his father's side were murdered by the Nazis. His paternal grandfather, an artilleryman in the Soviet army, lost his parents and three of his brothers in the Holocaust. "These tragedies came one after the other, first the Holodomor, then World War II," Zelensky says. "One tremendous blow followed the next."

I asked whether this history had in some ways hardened Ukraine as a nation, contributing to its resolve in fighting the present war. The question earned me a piercing look. "Some people might say it hardened us. But I think it took away so much of Ukraine's ability to develop," Zelensky says. "It was one blow after another, the hardest kind. How does

18+

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that harden us? People barely survived. Hunger broke them. It broke their psyches, and of course that leaves a trace."

Now it was his generation's turn to face the blows of a foreign invader. Instead of Stalin and Hitler, it was Putin trying to break their will by depriving them of heat and light, destroying their ability to harvest food, or to think about much besides survival through this winter. Already the next generation of Ukrainians, like Zelensky's own son, were learning about the tools of war instead of planning for prosperity. That is the pattern the President aims to disrupt, and his plan relies on more than weapons.

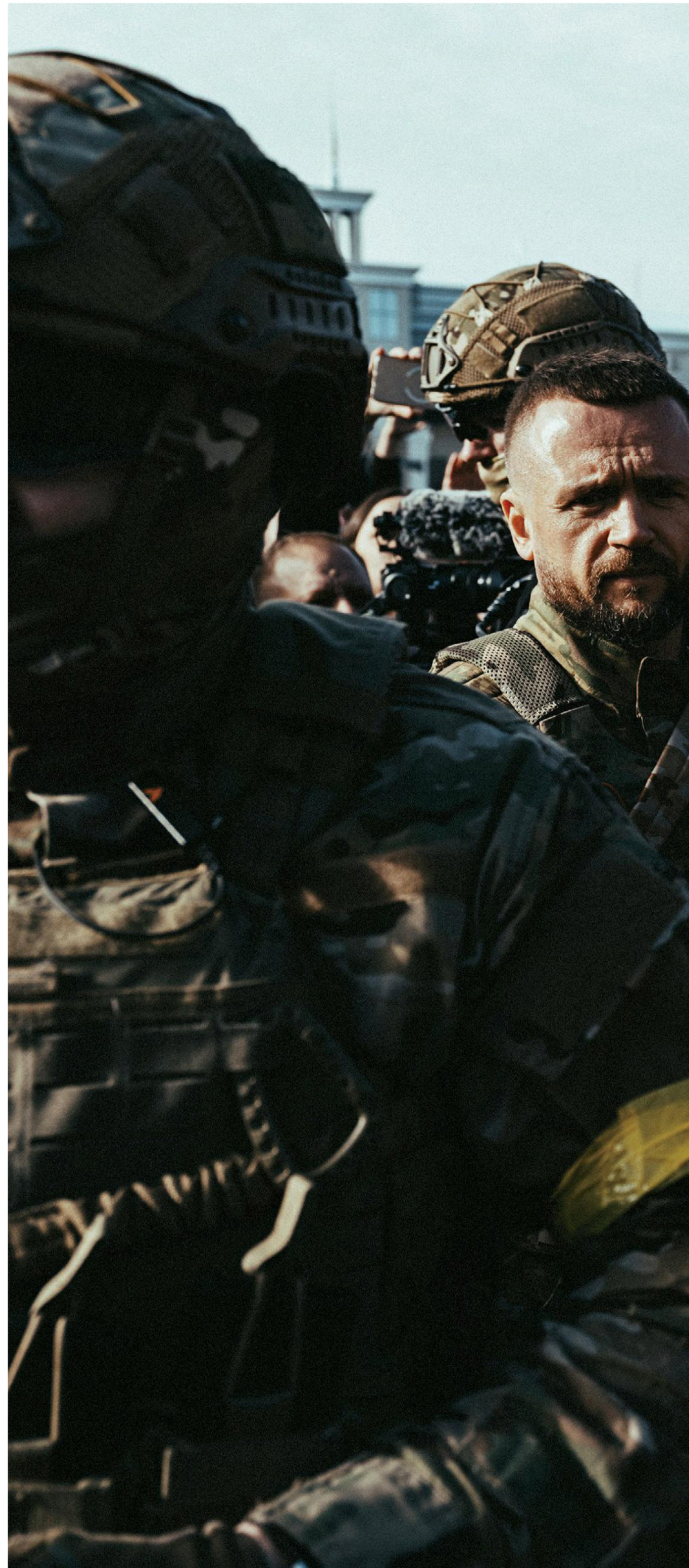
"I don't want to weigh who has more tanks and armies," he says. Russia is a nuclear superpower. No matter how many times its forces are made to retreat from Ukrainian cities, they can regroup and try again. "We are dealing with a powerful state that is pathologically unwilling to let Ukraine go," Zelensky told me. "They see the democracy and freedom of Ukraine as a question of their own survival." The only way to defeat an enemy like that—not just to win a temporary truce, but to win the war—is to persuade the rest of the free world to pull Ukraine in the other direction, toward sovereignty, independence, and peace. The loss of freedom in one nation, he argues, erodes freedom in all the rest. "If they devour us, the sun in your sky will get dimmer."

It was approaching midnight when we arrived back in Kyiv. The President's carriage stopped next to a gap in a concrete wall, behind which another convoy of cars was waiting to take him back to his office. Before dawn, Zelensky was due to give a speech to the G-20 summit in Bali, where the war in Ukraine topped the agenda. Despite the role that Russia plays in the group, its envoys were being ostracized by many of their peers in Bali, and its Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, had decided to go home early. "The Russians need to understand," Zelensky told me. "They will have no forgiveness. They will have no acceptance in the world."

Just before 3 a.m., Zelensky took his seat in the Situation Room on the second floor of the presidential compound. A golden trident, the state symbol of Ukraine, hung on the wall behind him. He was dressed in his usual olive green T-shirt when the cameras turned on. "Greetings," he said, "to the world's majority, which is with us."

The battle to liberate Kherson was over, he announced, and it was reminiscent of history's great military victories, like the Allied landing at Normandy on D-Day, which turned the tide of World War II. "That was not yet a final point in the fight against evil, but it already determined the further course of events. That is exactly what we are feeling now. Now, Kherson is free."

But his vision of victory now extends beyond the liberation of territory. In our interview on the way back from Kherson, Zelensky stressed that this year's invasion is just the latest Russian attempt over the past century to subjugate Ukraine. His intention is to make it the last, even if it takes a lot more time and sacrifice. It is far too early to gauge whether that goal can be reached, Zelensky told me. "Later we will be judged," he says. "I have not finished this great, important action for our country. Not yet." *—With reporting by* LESLIE DICKSTEIN *and* SIMMONE SHAH/NEW YORK





Zelensky greets the crowd during his visit to the liberated city of Kherson

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAXIM DONDYUK FOR TIME

2022 PERSON OF THE YEAR

THE SPIRIT OF UKRAINE

BY KARL VICK AND YASMEEN SERHAN





Forces of Light

ORDINARY PEOPLE FROM THE FRONT LINES AND BEYOND HELPED RALLY MUCH OF THE WORLD TO UKRAINE'S SIDE

EVEN A WEEK BEFORE THE INVASION, WITH U.S. OFFICIALS warning that Kyiv might fall in as little as 72 hours, the defense of Ukraine was not actually a lost cause. It was a defining one.

The country's T-shirted President would articulate the choice at hand on March 1, six days after more than 100,000 Russian troops crossed the border. The translator choked up during Volodymyr Zelensky's speech to the European Parliament, from somewhere in the besieged capital city.

"Life will win over death," Zelensky said, "and light will win over darkness."

As he spoke, the world was already sorting itself out, the response to the war coming as quickly as the invaders—quicker, when Russian tanks ran out of gas on the road to Kyiv. The European Union, created to keep the peace within a continent riven for centuries by war, voted to punish the Kremlin in the ways that a bloc of 27 governments can: closing its airspace, sanctioning Vladimir Putin's cronies, banning imports of at least some Russian petroleum. NATO, formed to defend the same continent against Moscow's Cold War aggression, found not only new life but also new members, Finland and Sweden signing up.

Whole countries turned on a dime. Germany reversed

Protesters hold flares with the colors of the Ukrainian flag at an antiwar demonstration outside the Russian embassy in Mexico City on Feb. 28

PHOTOGRAPH BY LUIS CORTES







seven decades of self-enforced pacifism, pledging a €100 billion military revamp and agreeing to send heavy weapons to a conflict zone for the first time since World War II. Poland went from E.U. problem child to hero, its people taking in more than a million Ukrainian refugees and its President one of the first leaders to travel to Kyiv. The U.S. threw open the depot doors on the world's mightiest arsenal, sending more than $17 billion in arms, materiel, and trainers, plus crucial intelligence and targeting assistance.

Corporations followed suit, fighting the tide of globalization by dealing Russia out. Within months 1,000 firms either pulled up stakes or ceased operations, and the Russian economy moved from growth to contraction.

But the most stirring answers to Zelensky's imperative came from individuals. Governments and blocs, like companies, have their own interests, to which Putin's aggression was not only morally offensive but also threatening. And true selflessness, after all, requires a self.

So at his home in the U.K., Dr. David Nott started making plans. "This is an invasion of a democratic country on European soil," he says. "If it's allowed to happen in Ukraine, it's allowed to happen throughout the world. And there are so many places that have the potential for this to happen."

Nott, 66, is positioned to know. Years earlier, the physician and his wife Elly had set up an organization to train local doctors in how to treat war wounds; while working in Syria he saw the effects of Russian munitions. "I knew that the tactics of the Russians are to bomb and to cause graft injuries and fragmentation injuries and really terrible wounds," says Nott. "So I knew that that was going to

PREVIOUS PAGES: REUTERS; THESE PAGES: KUTKOV: MAXIM DONDYUK FOR TIME; KONDRATOVA: KRISTINA PASHKINA—UNICEF; KLOPOTENKO: ALKIS KONSTANTINIDIS—REUTERS





Clockwise from left: engineer Oleg Kutkov in Kyiv; Dr. Iryna Kondratova at the Kharkiv Regional Perinatal Center; chef Ievgen Klopotenko cooking borsch in Lviv

happen." Since Feb. 24, he has been to Ukraine four times.

Chef José Andrés swung his humanitarian enterprise into a war zone that had been one of the breadbaskets of the world. By November, following the World Central Kitchen model of using local food and local people, 180 million free meals had been served in Ukraine, a literal lifeline in a nation where, six months after the invasion, nearly 7 million people had fled their homes but remained in the country. Meanwhile, Kyiv's most famous chef, Ievgen Klopotenko, 36, converted his restaurant into a military canteen and later opened a bistro in Lviv offering free meals to refugees. He also did battle against Putin's assertion that Ukraine had no identity by celebrating the country's cuisine at every opportunity. Klopotenko says it was "a huge win" when UNESCO recognized borsch as part of Ukrainian heritage. "When you want to feel safe, you eat borsch," he says. "During the war it became the symbol of survival."

Most of the $10 billion in humanitarian aid from abroad arrived as cargo, and delivering it entailed risks determined largely by the whims of the enemy. At the rear, cruise missiles and Iranian-made kamikaze drones arrived infrequently but with devastating effect. Closer to the front, people like Sergiy Ivanchuk put their lives in danger every day.

"We thought Russia would take us in a day," Ivanchuk, 30, recalls. "I thought I'd go to sleep and I'd wake up a part of Russia. But when I woke up and saw that Russia's effort wasn't working, I knew I would stay here and help my country win."

On March 9, he set off from his home in Poltava for Kharkiv—Ukraine's second largest city, just 22 miles from the border with Russia—to deliver 50 boxes of aid from France, and a haul of gasoline so people could evacuate Kharkiv in their own cars. Russians ambushed him, and his own car was pierced by 30 bullets, his body by five, including a round through a lung. "The nurse thought I was sleeping when she went over to my mom and told her to prepare for death," recalls Ivanchuk, an aspiring opera singer, who performed a short concert for his doctors before leaving the German hospital where he recovered.

Medical facilities in Kharkiv at the time were less than ideal. Expectant mothers and newborns whose health was already precarious enough for admission to the Regional Perinatal Center were rushed to the basement as the Russian assault began. "Sometimes we are forced to do our work literally between two air raids," Dr. Iryna Kondratova, a pediatric anesthesiologist, told UNICEF, adding that infants in intensive care must remain upstairs, with the equipment that keeps them alive. Their nurses stayed with them. At one point Russian shells demolished a city square 50 yards away.

"The way in which they fight, and the courage and the resilience that they display in that fight, I think is really inspiring to everybody," says actor Liev Schreiber, who co-founded BlueCheck Ukraine, to identify, vet, and fund grassroots organizations working in the country, of which there are a lot—41,000, according to one group's estimate.

THE FIGHT HAD BEEN LONELIER eight years earlier, when Russia took Crimea and sections of eastern Ukraine. Now, "it was the complete opposite of 2014," says Oleg Rogynskyy, 36, a Ukrainian entrepreneur in Silicon Valley who organized the support from the tech world pouring into Ukraine. "A lot of tech is dual use," he notes, meaning both civilian and military. "I was coming in [thinking] we are on our own. In 2014, people didn't show up. Countries didn't show up. That contrast really motivated me."

Credit the forces of light. This time, Putin's aggression looked so naked because by Feb. 24, it had been stripped of the obfuscation that cloaked previous incursions, including

2008's into Georgia. Those offenses had been shrouded by disinformation campaigns that generated just enough uncertainty about what was true to allow Russian forces time to establish "facts on the ground." NATO called the strategy "hybrid war" and, at the start of 2022, Putin was at it again.

In the jittery days before the invasion, Russia's forces of darkness staged "attacks" that were actually elaborate provocations, reported by state-owned media as genuine, and then cited by Russian officials as pretext for invasion. The claim on the morning of Feb. 22 was that Ukrainian "terrorists" in Russian-held territory had set off a roadside bomb, killing three people. Gruesome footage panned across human remains.

But this time, these frauds were being exposed by a small army of citizens around the globe—volunteers tracing the foundational facts that underpin all reality, including the internet. Working in the open, comparing notes on Twitter, building trust by always showing their work, they inspected the footage for telling details. For instance: autopsy incisions visible in the charred skulls of the "victims" were clear evidence that cadavers from a morgue had been placed in a vehicle and set alight.

The denizens of "open-source intelligence" (many of them trained by Bellingcat, the pioneering nonprofit that exposed the IED fake) remain on duty, tallying casualties, documenting atrocities, and demonstrating how very much information—and who is allowed access to it—defines the conflict in Ukraine. Because once inside the country, the forces of darkness lived up to their name, taking down the internet everywhere they went. It was a strategy for an invader that, back home, had outlawed the truth. Calling the war a "war" could get you a 15-year prison sentence in Russia.

Ukraine first came back online when Elon Musk activated his low-altitude Starlink satellite internet, as he would later do in Iran. The net was crucial to Ukrainian forces, who were issued the compact, portable Starlink antennas. But in Kyiv, self-described "tech and space nerd" Oleg Kutkov reconstructed a Starlink dish from eBay, and after contacting SpaceX support, caught a signal. "I was the first civilian user of Starlink here in Ukraine," says Kutkov, 34, who began a Facebook group that has grown to 8,700 people. "They read about me in the news, and they were all worrying about connectivity because the internet is really important here to get all the news, to get notifications and so on."

IT MATTERS IMMENSELY. As the world sorted itself between supporters of Ukraine and supporters of Russia, a notably reliable predictor was a country's access to information—the oxygen of democracy. Each year the human-rights monitor Freedom House publishes a global Net Freedom map that colors countries by the level of access their citizens have to an unfiltered internet. This year's map bears a striking resemblance to the maps showing each country's position on Ukraine.

"Our brand [is] one of an honest nation and an honest people trying to tell the truth," the country's Minister of Digital Transformation, Mykhailo Fedorov, told TIME in early March, when he was preoccupied with Big Tech, the supranational corporations that girdle the globe and guide events as no one government can. Fedorov wanted them to stop doing business with the invader. "They're on the side of truth or they're with Russia," he said.

So perhaps light is winning over darkness. But life is not winning over death. In the first nine months of the war, some 200,000 fighters have been killed or wounded—half on each side, U.S. officials estimate. The figure does not include Ukraine's more than 16,000 civilian casualties. As a medic, 53-year-old Julia Payevska treated them all, day and night, in Mariupol, the besieged southern city that held out against Russian forces for more than two months. Known as Taira, she wore a body cam while on duty, capturing wrenching scenes of life, death, and near-death, and shared the footage with a pair of Associated Press reporters—the only international journalists in the city.

> 'WHEN I WOKE UP AND SAW THAT RUSSIA'S EFFORT WASN'T WORKING, I KNEW I WOULD STAY HERE AND HELP MY COUNTRY WIN.'

In May, when Mariupol was about to fall and the reporters finally evacuated, they smuggled out one last data card. It happened to include footage of Taira helping a wounded Russian soldier. That turned out to be crucial when, after Russian troops entered the city, they recognized Taira and imprisoned her for three months. After the footage was broadcast, she was released in a prisoner exchange.

"When Mariupol was dismantled by aircraft and strikes from the sea, I watched the city die," she tells TIME. "On this ruin, blood, suffering, we will build a completely new country—not the revival of the old. Unlike Russia, which drags us into the past."

No one can tell the story of Ukraine like Ukrainians. For Olga Rudenko, the 33-year-old editor of the English-language Kyiv Independent news site, nine months of fighting has shifted the mission from "the fresh shock" of the invasion. "Now the challenge is to find a way to talk about it so that the world continues to care," she says. "How do we keep telling the stories of human suffering so that people want to continue to read them when in some ways, it's the same story of Russian troops doing horrible things in Ukraine?"

The answer, of course, resides in the example of the Ukrainians themselves. If the choices their President articulated gave moral clarity to an era we'd mostly been scrolling through, it was people who gave it meaning, by acting.

"There's such an overwhelming sense of: This is what needs to be done now," Rudenko says. "This is where we need to be." —*With reporting by* LISA ABEND/COPENHAGEN, JULIA ZORTHIAN/NEW YORK, *and* DAYANA SARKISOVA/WASHINGTON □



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The Women of Iran

BY AZADEH MOAVENI

IN THE WINTER OF 2017, A YOUNG WOMAN CALLED VIDA Movahed stood on top of a utility box on Revolution Street, a busy artery of central Tehran, and dangled her white headscarf on a stick. As an act of dissent, it was strikingly peaceful, giving the appearance of a white flag of surrender. Still, by not wearing her hijab, Movahed was challenging the system's dress codes. She stayed there for an hour, until she was arrested for breaking the law. Imagery of her silent, brave act raced around Instagram. A month later, a graduate student named Narges Hosseini performed the same defiant act on the same street. Soon, more women launched similar protests, and their movement took the name of where it all began: #TheGirlsofRevolutionStreet.

When I lived in Tehran in my early 20s, writing a TIME column called "Lipstick Jihad," we used to flout the rules by wearing brilliant colors and tighter and shorter overcoats, pushing against the gloomy black and navy of official dress codes, and bringing some individuality within the bounds of attire that was meant to erase distinctiveness. It was a way of refusing to be a model Islamic citizen, of showing the state that its plan had failed, and that we rejected its conservative vision of women as dutiful wives and mothers. It was millennials who drove the Girls of Revolution Street demonstrations of the late 2010s, leaving flowers

Women gather on Nov. 25 in Tehran in a show of solidarity for the fight for women's rights

PHOTOGRAPH BY FOROUGH ALAEI FOR TIME



Q&A

Her mother was murdered in the protests. Now she's speaking out

BY ANGELINA JOLIE

ROYA PIRAEI, 25, WAS LIVING WITH her parents in the city of Kermanshah, Iran, when protests began over the death in police custody of Mahsa (Jina) Amini, a young Iranian Kurdish woman charged with wearing her headscarf improperly. On Sept. 20, Roya's mother, Minoo Majidi, was chanting slogans with other protesters when security forces on motorbikes shot her at close range. She died with 167 shotgun pellets in her back.

Roya left the country for her safety. A young woman of intelligence and grace, she told me that the death of her mother was "like a hurricane, it took away everything. The Roya from before my mother's death is gone. I think I have been buried with her." She spoke from France about her grief and her hopes for Iran's future.

How are you coping with the shock? The wound in my heart, it is like it is becoming new every day. I am trying to be stable. But it's really hard. I have to move forward, because I should do my best to be a voice for the silenced voice of my mom and the other people who are being killed. She gave her life for what she believed in. She was seeking freedom and justice for Mahsa and all the young generation like me.

What was it like for you growing up in Iran? I'm not saying that I had a normal life. Nobody has a normal life under the control of the Islamic Republic. But I really appreciated my family, because I never felt like I should be something that I'm not around them. I was free to think what I liked. The pressure was more from society, from the government. Before all this happened, I was really close to my family. I felt so blessed. Through all this darkness [of] what the Islamic Republic did to our society, we had each other, we loved each other.

There have been protests before. What do you feel is different this time? This uprising started with demanding freedom for women. The death of Mahsa was like a spark. We were struggling with a lot of things: corruption in all organizations—in the education system, in politics and the economy, in the administration—everywhere, everything.

Now all the ethnicities from everywhere around Iran are united. All the people want to take back their country. Men and women fighting alongside each other, and that's a huge thing. Because everyone knows that

at spots that had been sites of protest and showing the next generation how powerfully civil disobedience could challenge inequality.

These younger women are now in the streets. The movement they're leading is educated, liberal, secular, raised on higher expectations, and desperate for normality: college and foreign travel, decent jobs, rule of law, access to the Apple Store, a meaningful role in politics, the freedom to say and wear whatever. They are quite unlike those who came before them; sometimes they feel more like transnational Gen Z than Iranians: they are vegans, they de-Islamicize their names, they don't want children. I've often wondered what has made them so rebellious, because their ferocious character was evident well before 22-year-old Mahsa (Jina) Amini, arrested at a metro station by the morality police who enforce the dress code, died after being held in their custody on Sept. 16, setting off the most sustained uprising in the 43-year history of the Islamic Republic. The average age of arrested protesters is notably low—Iranian officials estimate as young as 15. I can only conclude that when a generation's aspirations for freedom appear tantalizingly within reach, the more humiliating the remaining restrictions seem, and the less daunting the final stretch of resistance feels.

In the past two or three years, young women effectively already canceled the compulsory hijab. I was struck on a round of bureaucratic visits to government offices last summer by how casually and liberally young women dressed in even these traditionally austere official outposts. I felt ridiculous in a long black robe and a navy headscarf, as though I were a tourist who'd read all the wrong travel books. I was struck when a relative told me she'd received so many fines for driving without a headscarf that her driver's license was about to be suspended. She was obliged to attend a mass lecture, the equivalent of moral traffic school, and after promising to abide by the rules, her fines were canceled.

The state has known for some time it's on the back foot with dress codes, and is clearly spooked. Last winter, instead of the usual dreary billboards of a pious woman in black chador with some hectoring message about modesty, a panoramic image went up over Modarres Expressway in Tehran of a woman in a minimalist, sport hijab sprinting up a mountain, with the words YOU CHART THE PATH. #FINDYOURSELF.

AT THIS WRITING, an estimated 400 Iranian protesters have been killed by security forces, though some human-rights groups put the number higher, and judicial authorities are seeking harsh penalties for some of those detained. Despite measures to block the internet, reports continue to surface of deaths and abuse in custody. After nearly three months, protests on college campuses are not letting up, with students demanding the release of detained friends and defying gender-segregation rules in plazas and classes. At the World Cup, Iran's team stood silently during the national anthem, signaling their solidarity with the protesters.

Confronting the compulsory hijab is such a deft way of rejecting the wholesale failures of Iran's system that I often wonder why my generation didn't take the same path. We were caught up in unwinnable battles over equal marriage and inheritance rights, and other forms of legal discrimination that required us to operate within formal political spaces, through formal processes. Those were arguably more important challenges, but the state had no intention of

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demanding freedom for women leads to freedom for all society.

What is the hope of what is possible? What would you like to see? I'm not a politician. I can just answer from what I've seen and heard. The main thing is that people don't want a regime that is killing citizens. I have hope, because I think that there are a lot of decent, educated people in Iran, and a Generation Z that have great potential. All I can say is that I believe in my people.

I hope that however long it takes—and I hope it's soon—that there is change and that there is peace for women. It's a long way, but they won't go back into that darkness. They have realized that this regime can't be fixed, so I think their unity is the key to victory and to win this revolution.



Roya Piraei next to her mother's grave

Another thing is the support that other countries can have for us. Everyone in the opposition says that the Islamic Republic must be isolated, that diplomats should be expelled. Our voice has been loud, and everyone has started to see us, instead of the mullahs and the Islamic Republic. We are the representatives of Iran, not them.

If it is not too painful to ask, what was your mom like? My mother, she always believed in freedom. She cared about human beings. She was really patient, because of her big heart and kindness. She liked sports, literature, and for a while she did some horseback riding. I never saw her not doing something. She was full of life. We shared everything. I lost the dearest person in my life, and that's why I feel they killed me as well.

It's unthinkable cruelty. I really do pray that for all the courage and sacrifice, something new will be born that has light and freedom. There will be, because we have paid for it with our dear ones. With lives. So it's not going to be wasted.

allowing such reforms, and over time, activists were so blocked that they gave up. The space simply didn't exist. It didn't exist for feminists, and soon it didn't exist for the private sector petitioning for regulatory reform, for environmentalists, for labor activists. What's happening in Iran may look familiar, but it's different because, today, the aspirations of all of those who have sought change are on display, swirled into the chants of "woman, life, freedom," a feminist revolt carrying a whole society's varied grievances.

It's telling that even schoolgirls have been swept up into these protests. A relative's daughter told me that every day in her eighth-grade classroom someone scrawled a chant on the blackboard, and one girl even had the courage to ask what *dictator* meant. These words are not irrelevant to them. They're all on Snapchat and can peer into the lives of their cousins around the world, acutely aware they're the only ones who have to wear a school uniform that includes a hooded headscarf, as though they are Benedictine nuns.

The contrast between the lives they lead, especially online, and the inherited imagery and ideological messaging of the Islamic Republic couldn't be more stark. The regime is devoted to martyrs. Solemn portraits of soldiers lost in the Iran-Iraq War still line freeways, though in recent years the system (as Iranians refer to their enveloping government) has recast its propaganda into content that tries to be competitive on Instagram. But these historical grudges and traumatic memories have no particular hold on Gen Z youth, who are preoccupied with their own struggles: years of crushing U.S. sanctions that have devastated Iran's economy, and navigating life under a paralyzed, dogmatic system that prefers isolation to economic and social openness.

Among the many reasons the rebellion has gone on so long is the stuttering response of a government that recognizes the validity of the complaint. There are old revolutionary elites who have warned of a system that has utterly lost its way, can no longer afford to subsidize its traditional social base, has alienated everyone else, including the religious, and has subordinated the well-being of its citizens to the notion of security. An outside analyst might see a regime shaped by decades of international isolation. An Iranian analyst might see a narrow, brittle system desperate to cling to power at any cost. An Iranian teenage girl only sees herself as the unfortunate child of what is increasingly a pariah state, cut off from the world economically, socially, and culturally, and all for what? In whose name?

What are Iranians willing to suffer in order to see their demands for fundamental change realized? The question will be resolved by Iranians themselves, those inside the country who will live with the outcome of their actions. For now, the regional and wider reverberations of Iranian girls' revolt could not be more seismic. In neighboring Iraq and Afghanistan, countries where violence against women is endemic, activists have held up posters of their Iranian sisters. Feminists across the globe, especially in Europe and Latin America, see the outcome in Iran as a bellwether for their own struggles. No one, not the officials in Iran nor governments around the world who have made hostility to women a brand of politics, saw the power of a girl standing on a utility box, demanding to be left alone.

Moaveni, a former TIME columnist, is the author of Guest House for Young Widows

COURTESY ROYA PIRAEI

The James Webb Telescope Team

BY JEFFREY KLUGER

FOUR YEARS AGO, GREGORY ROBINSON WANTED nothing to do with what might be the greatest spacecraft ever built. It didn't, at the time, seem like it would ever actually become what it was promised to be: a machine that would take images from space, return them to Earth, and gobsmack the public with their clarity and depth and sheer celestial beauty—the kind of beauty that could, even briefly, stop a fraught and fractious species like ours from the daily messes we make of our world and leave us thinking, just once, You know what? When we try, we can do something truly grand.

What the spacecraft did seem like at the time was a massive white elephant, one that a man in Robinson's position would not want to go near. For one thing, it was grossly over budget—with a sticker price that had risen from an initial estimate in 1995 of just $500 million to $8.8 billion. For another thing, it was years behind schedule. Its launch was originally set for 2007, and here it was the spring of 2018 and still nobody could say exactly when it would leave the ground. And finally, Robinson, who was at the time NASA's deputy associate administrator of programs, liked the job he had just fine—overseeing no fewer than 114 NASA spacecraft either already flying or in the development pipeline.

Webb's image of the Pillars of Creation, a star-forming region 6,500 light-years from Earth

PHOTOGRAPH BY NASA/ESA/CSA/STSCI



And now, here came his boss, NASA associate administrator Thomas Zurbuchen, offering him a dog of an assignment: give up all of those fine spacecraft with their fine missions, and take over as program director of the James Webb Space Telescope—a generational project, yes, but with many blown deadlines and bloated costs and all the headaches that came with them. The telescope's launch, at the time, was set for less than half a year away—October 2018—and once again it looked as if it would miss its target.

"We have some major challenges," Robinson recalls Zurbuchen saying to him. "We're starting to realize we may not make our launch date." Zurbuchen then got to his point, asking—more like insisting, as Robinson recalls it—that he take over the reins of the project. "You're the right guy to do it," Zurbuchen said. "We've looked at a lot of different people, and you're the right guy."

Zurbuchen was impressed not just by Robinson's technical acumen, but also his skills with a workforce. "The majority of problems we encountered with Webb during its [previous] six years were people and team problems," Zurbuchen said in an email to TIME. "Technically, most issues had been resolved, but the team had struggled to come together and execute seamlessly. This is where Greg's strengths really lie. He can walk into a meeting or launch room and walk out knowing what the energy of the team is, and also what hinders their progress."

All the same, Robinson resisted the Webb offer for weeks before ultimately relenting to Zurbuchen's entreaties. Four years on, the decision looks like an eminently good one. The seven-ton James Webb Space Telescope, with its prodigious 6.5-m (21.3 ft.) main mirror, is now situated in space 1.6 million km (1 million miles) from Earth, peering deeper into the universe, and thus further back in time, than any other space observatory ever built. If the Hubble Space Telescope has been NASA's astronomical workhorse for more than 30 years, the Webb is the newer, grander, more powerful racehorse.

"Until Webb, Hubble was the best in the business," says Robinson. "But to see the clarity, the differences in the images we're getting now, it just blows my mind."

The public's awed reaction has mirrored Robinson's own; the Webb telescope has come to represent something larger and grander than all of us. The long effort to get the spacecraft built, the mission it was assigned—searching for clues to the very origins of the universe—have worked a certain transcendent good. From the hands of a team of thousands of researchers, engineers, and factory-line workers came a ship that, if it doesn't exactly kick open the doors to the secrets of the cosmos, at least parts the curtain. "This beautiful machine," says senior project scientist John Mather, "has worked in every way that it was supposed to work."

That beautiful work Webb is doing is a function of the wavelength in which its mirror sees the universe. Hubble scans space principally in the visible spectrum—the same wavelength with which the human eye sees. That allows it to peer 13.4 billion light-years away, seeing light that has been traveling to us for 13.4 billion years—or just 400 million years after the Big Bang. But Hubble is blind to what happened in that critical earlier phase of the universe's infancy, because visible light from so far away can't penetrate the intervening dust of interstellar space.

Infrared radiation, however, cuts right through the dust, allowing a telescope that, like Webb, detects energy in that frequency to see as far as 13.6 billion light-years distant. The additional 200 million years seems like a small difference, but it's not.

"The difference between what Hubble and Webb [see] is not like comparing someone who's 70 years old to somebody who's 71 years old," said Scott Friedman, an astronomer with the Webb team, in a conversation with TIME last year. "It's like comparing a baby who's 1 day old to a baby who's 1 year old."

HUBBLE, LAUNCHED IN 1990, had been in space for no more than five years before NASA began drawing up plans for an infrared observatory that was then called the Next Generation Space Telescope. The idea was a bold one, but it seemed snakebit from the start. Nobody had ever built a telescope like this before, and the research and development process was slow and painstaking, with the original half-billion price tag climbing steadily over the years—to $1 billion in 2000; $2.5 billion in 2004 (by which point the telescope had been renamed in honor of former NASA administrator James Webb); $4.5 billion in 2006; $8 billion in 2011; and $8.8 billion when Robinson took over in 2018.

That made Robinson's job a potentially thankless one, but he was not working alone. At the time he took command of the project, NASA had already empaneled an independent review board to help set Webb to rights at last. Working with the board, Robinson improved the project's efficiency rating—a ratio of scheduled tasks to completed tasks—from 55% to 95%. He also made the process more transparent, holding regular meetings with the White House Office of Management and Budget as well as appropriations committees in both houses of Congress.

And Robinson made it a point to tell some hard truths: Webb, he frankly conceded, was going to be later still—not launching until the end of 2021—and would cost more still, with a final price tag of $10 billion. But those would be the drop-dead limits.

"I tried to be a little more realistic," Robinson says. "We tend to come into these things with a hero syndrome, and that can get you into trouble. I tried to institute better schedules, better milestones. Our rule was 'Go fast, but don't rush.'"

On Christmas Day 2021, the James Webb Space Telescope at last left the ground, aboard a European Space Agency (ESA) Ariane 5 rocket launched from Kourou, French Guiana, in South America. Hitching a ride with the ESA was a necessity because of the Webb's size—which is too big for any rocket in the American fleet. Only the Ariane 5's 5.4-m (17.7 ft.) fairing could accommodate it.

Launching from French Guiana came with its own challenges. Robinson and the rest of the NASA team were on-site for three weeks before liftoff as the telescope was



Gregory Robinson, retired program director of the James Webb Space Telescope, calls the job the "capstone" of his NASA career

loaded into the rocket and countdown rehearsals were run again and again. The jungle environment required the crew to take antimalarial pills, tolerate ants in the hotel rooms, and stay alert to the stray jaguar that would appear on or around the launch site.

"One night, one of our engineers came back to his hotel and found a 6-ft. snake in his room," says Bill Ochs, Webb's now retired project manager.

Once in space, the telescope required three months before it could unfold its mirror and bring all of its observation instruments online. The process required successfully overcoming 344 so-called single-point failures—a pulley or actuator or switch that, if it went awry, could all by itself doom the mission. The biggest challenge involved unfurling the Webb's tennis-court-size sunshield—a structure made of five layers of foil-like Kapton that keeps the temperature of the telescope's mirror and instruments at a frigid −223°C (−370°F). That bitter temperature is necessary to prevent stray heat from distorting Webb's infrared images the way stray light can ruin optical pictures. All 344 single-point failures worked perfectly and at last, in March 2022, the telescope switched on its 6.5-m eye and captured its initial image.

For that first picture, engineers at Webb's mission-control center at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) in Baltimore turned the telescope toward an entirely unremarkable star that goes by the decidedly technical name TYC 4212-1079-1. The choice was a practical one: TYC 4212-1079-1, some 2,000 light-years from Earth, has no nearby neighbors, allowing Webb to focus on it alone.

At first the image was a mess, with all 18 of the mirror segments capturing their own image of the star. "Imagine an a cappella chorus where everyone has their own key and their own song," says Webb's operations project scientist Jane Rigby. But over the course of several days the team focused the mirror, adjusting the position of each segment on the order of nanometers—less than the width of a human hair—until the 18 blurred images resolved into a single, impossibly bright and sharp one, with hundreds of galaxies photobombing it in the background.

"I can tell you that I've worked with geeks my whole life, and there was no better scene," says Robinson, who was at the STScI at the time. "To see a bunch of people just falling over themselves with joy, it was a beautiful thing. I'm glad I was a part of it."

In July, the whole world got to experience a similarly sublime moment when the Webb team unveiled four eye-popping images, including a field of galaxies known as SMACS 0723; the Carina Nebula—one of the cosmos' great nurseries for new stars—located 7,600 light-years from Earth; and Stephan's Quintet, a cluster of five galaxies first imaged by more primitive telescopes in 1877. The big reveal took place at a White House event attended by multiple members of the Webb team.

"These images are going to remind the world that America can do big things, and remind the American people—especially our children—that there's nothing beyond our capacity," President Joe Biden said during the event. "We can see possibilities no one has ever seen before. We can go places no one has ever gone before."

With that early hoopla passed, the telescope has now entered its operational phase and is settling down to do more than just deliver eye candy. Astronomers from around the world who want to conduct research on the telescope are invited to submit proposals for observation time, and the Webb team expects to receive 1,000 such pitches per year—with only enough telescope time available to accommodate about 200 of them.

Despite that selectivity, Robinson—who has since retired, calling Webb the "capstone" of his career—sees the telescope as very much a democratic instrument. It may be owned and operated by NASA, but, Robinson says, "29 states in the U.S., 14 countries, and over 10,000 people touched this telescope." ◻

PHOTOGRAPH BY DINA LITOVSKY FOR TIME

Michelle Yeoh

BY LUCY FELDMAN

CAST YOUR EYES TO THE FLOOR AND YOU'LL NOTICE: though there are dozens of people here, engaged in as many conversations over afternoon cocktails, virtually all the shoes in the room are angled toward Michelle Yeoh.

It's mid-November in Los Angeles, which means the city is gearing up for Oscars season, and Yeoh is holding court before an industry screening of her film *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. Everyone here wants to meet her, to shake her hand, to be remembered by her. Dressed in staggering platform sneakers and an embellished blazer, she's posing for photos, cracking jokes, throwing her head back to laugh, sipping from a glass of wine—embodying the role of the star—until fellow actor Ke Huy Quan approaches, and she softens. She places a hand on his cheek, brushes something from his shirt. The two played husband and wife in the surreal, action-packed family love story, and through their connection, Yeoh's warmth becomes visible in the chaos.

"They call it a campaign," she says later, exhaling in the silence of a private dining room. She's played her part, and now she can eat. "It's a little overwhelming."

The fact that all this is new to Yeoh is remarkable. Since making her debut in Hong Kong action films in the mid-'80s, the now 60-year-old Malaysian actor has battled Jet Li in

Michelle Yeoh photographed in Los Angeles on Nov. 21

PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION BY MICHELLE WATT FOR TIME



The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, flung herself onto a moving car driven by Jackie Chan in *Supercop,* and jumped off a skyscraper with Pierce Brosnan's James Bond in *Tomorrow Never Dies.* She had major roles in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Memoirs of a Geisha;* and *Crazy Rich Asians.* She's done Marvel, *Star Trek, Kung Fu Panda, Minions*—*Avatar, Transformers,* and *The Witcher* are next. But, until *Everything Everywhere All at Once,* which premiered in March, she had never been No. 1 on a Hollywood call sheet.

She's clear about why: Asian actors have long been given stereotypical or inconsequential roles, and rarely top billing. "It shouldn't be about my race, but it has been a battle," she says, golden baubles on her jacket clanging as she mimics elbowing her way through a crowd. "At least let me try."

Which is why the role of Evelyn Wang in *Everything Everywhere All at Once* was such a revelation. In the hit arthouse film directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (known as Daniels), Yeoh is an overworked, overburdened immigrant wife and mother facing an IRS audit of the family laundromat when, suddenly, everything changes. She learns that there are multiple versions of the universe, and they're all facing a threat that only she can stop—if she can figure out how to jump between different realities and pick up skills possessed by different versions of herself. Yeoh has the opportunity to showcase all of her talents—as a martial artist but also, in portraying Evelyn's deep love for her family, even as she struggles to communicate with them, her abilities as a dramatic actor. It's a shift for the actor, who toggles between wacky sequences, like a world where humans have hot dogs for fingers, and intimate moments. "She usually plays masters, tough fighters," says Jet Li. "The action—I know she can do it. But really acting from the heart, believing the part, makes the movie very special."

This is the moment Yeoh has long been waiting for: a big, starring role, the kind that could make her a household name. She likes to tell the story of how, during a recent press tour, she kept hearing from young journalists that their parents were excited for them to interview her. Her point is that she wants young people themselves to think she's cool and relevant. I know this means I probably shouldn't bring up my parents, but there's a problem: my mom, who I've heard refer to Yeoh as her "hero," is currently hiding in my company-provided hotel room. She doesn't live in Los Angeles—she flew here, ostensibly to spend time with me, but we both know the truth. She wants to meet Michelle Yeoh.



Yeoh knew the film would be a hit when it premiered at SXSW: "The last time when I felt that so immediately was in Cannes for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.*"

YEOH WAS NOT MEANT to be a movie star. Growing up in Ipoh, Malaysia, she imagined a future in ballet. But a back injury at the Royal Academy of Dance in London cut her dancing ambitions short, and in 1983 her mother entered her in the Miss Malaysia pageant—which she won—and soon she was filming a wristwatch commercial with Jackie Chan. The production company for the ad also made movies, and she quickly found her way into the industry.

Yeoh has been a major star in Asia for decades—she was a giant in the golden age of Hong Kong action cinema, toplining dozens of films and earning a reputation for nailing daring stunts. She nearly quit acting more than once—first because she got married and planned to have children (a path she learned wasn't possible for her), and later because of injuries she suffered on set. In 1995, Yeoh was recovering from a stunt gone wrong when Quentin Tarantino, in Hong Kong to promote *Pulp Fiction,* stopped by to pay homage. As he recited her fight sequences, frame by frame, Yeoh decided she wasn't done. Soon, she landed her first major Hollywood role: Wai Lin, the Chinese secret agent in *Tomorrow Never Dies* who, in what was then a departure for the franchise, was every bit James Bond's equal.

Around that time was when Yeoh realized that there was a fast way to gain a foothold in the U.S., and there was a right way. People she met could not distinguish Malaysia from China or Japan, and were overly complimentary of her English. After Bond, the offers came in—but they were for the only kind of roles the industry could imagine for someone who looked like her. Yeoh turned down everything that perpetuated harmful tropes about Asian women, and it was three years before she made another Hollywood film.



COURTESY A24

That project was the 2000 martial-arts fantasy *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.* Director Ang Lee thought of her first for the role of the warrior Yu Shu Lien, who grounds the movie. "I would hope, selfishly, that it was the peak for her," Lee says, adding that she made him cry on set. "But she just went on making good performances, year after year."

Another high point was 2018's *Crazy Rich Asians,* in which Yeoh played a tough yet loving mother who disapproves of her son's relationship. For Kevin Kwan, the author of the book and an executive producer on the film, her performance exposed a dichotomy: audience members in Asia expected nothing less from a familiar star, while Americans treated her like a new discovery. There was a push to launch an Oscar campaign for her, but it didn't take off. "Hopefully, that planted a seed," Kwan says. "And you keep building."

Yeoh is carrying an added weight in this year's Academy Awards race: the understanding that victory for her would be received by Asians everywhere as victory for them too. No Asian woman has won Best Actress. "I've thought about it," she admits. "And not just me—I feel like my full Asian community has thought about it. They come up to me and they say, 'You're doing it for us.'"

Yeoh is suddenly finding herself, after all these years, in the conversation with many women, white women in particular, who are considered to be the very best at their craft. "I do look at all my peers—Cate Blanchett, Olivia Colman, Helen Mirren—and go, Oh God, I envy all the different opportunities you get to showcase your talent again and again," Yeoh says. She put everything she had into playing Evelyn Wang. "When you get an opportunity like this, you have to pour your heart and soul into it, because you don't know when the next chance is," she says. "I think that is my biggest fear: Please don't let this be the one and only."

IT'S HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS what representation means to people who so rarely enjoy it—how it feels to see, for the first time, a person onscreen who looks like you or someone you love saving the world. I'm trying to find the right way to ask Yeoh what this means to her when I realize I need to tell her the truth: I've stashed my mother nearby, and she's dying for an introduction. I'm not at all surprised when Yeoh insists I bring Mom to the photo shoot the next morning.

In the car on the way to the studio, I offer my mother a warning: this is a top-secret operation, and she cannot take photos. Inevitably, the moment we arrive and she takes in the scene—the crew, the equipment, and *the* Michelle Yeoh, radiant in front of long, lighted mirrors—Mom's phone is out of her pocket. But Yeoh greets us both with such warmth and recognition that in that moment we are not journalist and guest—we are daughter and mother, greeting an icon who represents us in a way that feels deeply personal.

For hours, I watch my mom watch Yeoh. She has her arms stretched outward in a glittering gown, she's dancing. Everyone is rapt. And she reminds me of my mom—they are of the same generation, after all, and they are both dynamic and fierce and wonderful in ways that feel related, at least to me. To see my mom witness Yeoh at work is to understand what she means to so many people around the world.

If life is a series of decisions that set you on your own path, Yeoh has made some good ones. Starring in a film about confronting multiple realities has meant she's been answering questions about alternate versions of her own life all year—what if she'd never injured her back as a teen ballerina? What if she'd had children and remained retired? What if Tarantino had never visited her? Her answer is always the same: There's no point in wondering what if. Her life has gone the way it has gone, and there's only forward from here.

What happens next, at least for this film, is out of her hands. But that doesn't stop her from reaching one across the table, palm open toward me.

"OK," she says, meeting my eyes with a disarming combination of jest and sincerity. "Give it to me." Yeoh has always been a woman who knows what she wants: to prove herself, to lend voice to fully embodied, fascinating characters, to play and to love and to reach generations through the magic of movies. Now she wants that Oscar—that validation for herself and for people around the world who look like her, like us, so we can experience what it feels like to be told we belong. "It's not about needing it," she says. "It's that feeling that you don't have to explain: it's love from other people. My arms are out open." *—With reporting by* MARIAH ESPADA ▯

Aaron Judge

BY SEAN GREGORY

WHEN AARON JUDGE STOOD IN THE YANKEE STADIUM batter's box in late September, he couldn't quite shake the silence. Some 45,000 voices hushed, as if they were at a basilica, not a ball field. As fans anticipated a landmark moment in sports—the breaking of a revered home-run record—they refused to peep as the pitcher wound up.

"I never noticed the crowd until they stopped cheering, which was one of the craziest things in my career," says Judge, 30, sitting in the leafy courtyard of his luxury New York City apartment building, about a week after the end of a monumental campaign in which he set a new American League home-run mark, with 62. "That's when I started to kind of realize, 'Oh boy, there's something special going on here.'"

Judge—who at 6 ft. 7 in. and 282 lb. checks in as one of the most massive players in baseball history—slugged his 60th home run for the New York Yankees, tying Babe Ruth's 1927 milestone, on Sept. 20, launching a 95-m.p.h. sinker deep into the left-center field bleachers. From there, the story got suspenseful. Over five home games and two more on the road in Toronto, Judge failed to tie Roger Maris' American League record of 61. He began to press, and opposing pitchers, in no mood to become subjects

Judge, whose home-run chase captivated sports fans, in New York City on Nov. 2

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN SCHOELLER FOR TIME



of trivia questions for generations, remained reluctant to throw him strikes. Judge, however, locked in just in time. He tied Maris in Toronto on Sept. 28, and finally hit No. 62 on Oct. 4, a 391-ft. blast off Rangers pitcher Jesus Tinoco in the second-to-last game of the season. (Remember that name, for your sports-bar quiz night, circa 2041.)

The record chase boosted attendance, television ratings, and social media engagement down the stretch of the 2022 baseball season. ESPN even cut into college-football coverage to show potential record-breaking swings, interrupting sacrosanct Saturday-afternoon viewing routines. “That’s really good for the game,” Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred tells TIME. “When you cut into football, you’re hitting people that you might not otherwise get to.” Judge became a free agent on Nov. 6, bringing buzz to the offseason. In early December, he agreed to sign the richest free-agent contract in the game’s history, keeping him a New York Yankee for the next nine years.

In a year full of memorable athletic achievements—Stephen Curry shooting the Golden State Warriors to another NBA title, Serena Williams and Roger Federer taking their final tennis bows, the World Cup wizards scoring goals in Qatar—none was more transcendent than Judge’s. Sports fans hold individual records dear, and no game cherishes its numbers quite like the national pastime. Many fans and pundits even consider Judge the “authentic” single-season home-run champ, given that all the National League players who’ve hit more than Judge—Barry Bonds (73 in 2001), Mark McGwire (70 in 1998, 65 in 1999), and Sammy Sosa (66 in 1998, 64 in 2001, 63 in 1999)—did so under a cloud of steroid suspicion.

Judge still considers Bonds—one of his favorite players while growing up in tiny Linden, Calif., some 75 miles east of San Francisco—the rightful record holder. “I’ll say I have the AL record,” Judge tells TIME. “I’ll hold my head on that.” He won’t, however, dissuade public sentiment. “I’m not going to try to change someone’s opinion if they say I am, or I’m not,” he says. “That’s up to them.”

AS A BIRACIAL KID growing up with white adoptive parents in Linden, a rural town of 1,784 in 2010 with a 0.6% African American population, Judge stood out. But thanks in part, he thinks, to his athletic prowess—Judge was a three-sport (baseball, football, basketball) star at Linden High—he felt accepted. “Just because I didn’t look like my parents and was a little taller than everyone else and maybe had a little more freckles, no one treated me any different.”

When Judge was around 10, he asked his parents Wayne and Patty, both schoolteachers, why he and his older brother, who is of Korean descent, didn’t look at all like their parents. They told him the boys were adopted, and offered to provide any information he wanted to know about his biological parents. Judge just asked if he could go back outside and play. “I’ve just never had a need,” says Judge, “because I’ve felt at home.” (Judge says he does know that his biological father is Black and his biological mother is white.)

Though the Oakland A’s drafted Judge in the 31st round out of high school, he chose to go to Fresno State, his



parents’ alma mater. At Fresno, coach Mike Batesole would fine players who used *I* or *me* in boastful conversation. Judge, who reached the big leagues in 2016, has continued to adhere to that team-first philosophy in New York, constantly crediting his teammates in interviews throughout his home-run charge, earning him comparisons to the longtime face of the Yankees, shortstop Derek Jeter. “Ultimately, if you’re artificial, time will expose you,” Jeter tells TIME. “You can’t fake out New Yorkers. You either mean it or you don’t, and it appears to me that he means it.”

Judge denies mimicking Jeter—or anyone else. “I’m always confused when people are like, ‘Oh, you’re like Jeter, you’re like this guy,’ ” Judge says. “I try not to be. I just try to be who I am.” He cops to strategic communication, which was Jeter’s MO. He’s unlikely to, say, leak juicy details of a team meeting to the New York tabloids. “To say I’m boring, I don’t care,” says Judge. “I’m in front of that camera after every single game. They can never say I’m not accountable.”

In 2017, Judge set a new rookie home-run record, with 52 (Pete Alonso of the New York Mets broke that mark two seasons later). Injuries curtailed Judge’s home-run numbers the next three years. Starting late in the 2021 season, he made a subtle hitting adjustment, moving his hands from behind



Judge launches his 62nd home run of the 2022 season—the most in American League history—into the Globe Life Field seats in Arlington, Texas, on Oct. 4

BEN LUDEMAN—TEXAS RANGERS/GETTY IMAGES

his neck to the middle of his chest at the plate. This enables him to coil his hips and load up his power before swinging through the ball. This action creates a slingshot effect. "You want to stretch the rubber band all the way out," says Judge. "And once you get to that moment, you want to release it."

The adjustment made his at-bats a must-watch. Judge's highlights generated 84% more engagements than the average post on MLB's Facebook page. The MLB Network's telecast of the Sept. 28 Yankee game in Toronto, in which Judge smacked his 61st home run, was the most-watched regular-season game in eight years. At the start of the season, according to MLB data, 21% of fans ranked Shohei Ohtani as "the most exciting player to watch in baseball right now," while only 4% thought the same of Judge. Come October, 27% of fans said Judge was the most exciting player in the game, a near sevenfold increase. Just 16% picked Ohtani.

JUDGE VALIDATED HIS DECISION ahead of opening day not to extend his Yankees contact beyond his "walk" year, the last season before a player can become a free agent. He had felt blindsided in April when New York Yankees GM Brian Cashman took the rare step of publicly revealing that Judge had turned down $213.5 million to stay in the Bronx for the next seven years. "We kind of said, Hey, let's keep this between us," says Judge. "I was a little upset that the numbers came out. I understand it's a negotiation tactic. Put pressure on me. Turn the fans against me, turn the media on me. That part of it I didn't like." (A Yankees spokesperson declined to make Cashman available for comment.)

Though he had been confident he could earn more as a free agent, when his season got off to a somewhat slow start, Judge second-guessed himself. "But then you kick yourself in the butt and say, Nah, man," he says. "Come on." By the end of May, Judge had slugged 18 homers and was off toward history. Besides setting the new AL home-run record, Judge led the AL in runs batted in and finished second in batting average. He didn't make a single error in the outfield. "I don't even think it's arguable," says Yankees first baseman Anthony Rizzo. "It's the best walk year you can ever have in any sport."

As a result, Judge was flush with options. Remaining with the Yankees allows him to join the pantheon of icons—Jeter, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Mariano Rivera—who wore only pinstripes during Hall of Fame careers. He has unfinished business in the Bronx, as Judge has yet to win a World Series. But coming home to the Bay Area to play for his childhood team, the San Francisco Giants, held clear appeal. In fact his wife, high school sweetheart Samantha Bracksieck, reminded him of a prediction he made in 2010, his senior year at Linden High School. "I said, in 10 years, I'll be married to Sam," says Judge, "and playing for the San Francisco Giants."

The thought of Judge playing out his days elsewhere brought jitters to the pinstripe faithful. "I just pray and hope that [Yankees owner] Hal Steinbrenner does the right thing and makes it mo' better and gives Aaron Judge his money," said New York sports superfan Spike Lee in mid-November, while Judge was still deciding. "Hal, you had the chance to sign him, and you bet against him. Yankee Nation is looking at you, Hal. What are you going to do? To paraphrase my Puerto Rican brother, Fat Joe, last season's price is not this season's price."

Judge got his money, with a whopping $360 million deal. In the end, he chose between the Yankees, Giants, and San Diego Padres, ultimately banking on the allure of "Yankee for life" status. His decision should pay off for baseball. "There's just absolutely no doubt—our research supports this—that player continuity in a particular market is really important to building fandom in the game," says Manfred, the commissioner.

Sitting on a fountain's edge in his courtyard, Judge eyed the future. "The money is going to be there no matter where I go," Judge told TIME, quite correctly. "I want to go somewhere for the rest of my career. I want to finish out being in the World Series for quite few of those years, win championships and bring something special back to the city."

New York awaits Judge's parade. ◻

Blackpink

BY RAISA BRUNER

THE WAREHOUSE IN LOS ANGELES IS COLD AND DRAFTY, transformed this November day into a photo-shoot dreamland for Jennie, Jisoo, Lisa, and Rosé, the four members of Blackpink. Cement floors sprout into a fairy-tale garden, and a glossy vintage station wagon is parked next to a man-made hill. For nearly 12 hours, the performers—some of the most popular women in the world—gamely hit their poses. In the evening, huddled up with fuzzy blankets over bare legs in front of a makeshift plywood backdrop, they seem less like superstars than best friends unwinding. "We put in a lot of work so we could look like superwomen," says Jennie. "We're very normal girls, at the end of the day."

Normal as they may be, their 2022 has been anything but. They appeared at the VMAs in August, performing their hit single "Pink Venom," and onstage during their latest blockbuster world tour, which kicked off in October and will hit 27 cities over nine months. Shows sold out in minutes and were attended by tens of thousands of fans, including celebrities like Selena Gomez and Usher. The foursome released its highly anticipated second studio album, *Born Pink,* in September, which notched a record as the best-selling album by a Korean girl group, with over 2 million album sales. It continues to dominate on YouTube, where Blackpink is

Lisa, Jisoo, Rosé, and Jennie of Blackpink photographed in Los Angeles on Nov. 18

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETRA COLLINS FOR TIME



the biggest musical act with over 83 million subscribers.

You don't accomplish all that by being like other pop groups. Most have a limited life span: they age out, flame out, or see one member rise above. But Blackpink has managed to become the biggest girl group in the world precisely by allowing its members to be solo stars in their own right. The group may be bigger than the sum of its parts, but each of its parts is bigger than most other pop groups' combined efforts. As the culture becomes more stratified—only a handful of musicians stand out, from Taylor Swift to Drake to, yes, BTS—Blackpink has managed to succeed by demanding our attention everywhere we have attention to give: not just in our headphones, but also in fashion and onscreen. Still, in a pop landscape that's not built for longevity, how do you maintain your spot at the top?

THE MEMBERS OF BLACKPINK were recruited through an audition process by YG, one of the traditional "Big Three" K-pop labels in South Korea. During their five-plus years of training at the dormlike YG facilities in Seoul, the young women learned to dance, sing, and perform together, watching as other trainees failed to meet the company's exacting standards. K-pop produces revenues upwards of $10 billion per year. Blackpink in particular is a serious engine in that market, especially for YG. There's a lot of financial pressure riding on their continued success. But that doesn't seem to faze them. "If we consider this in the business way, we wouldn't be able to do this," Jennie says. "We do it out of our heart."

The varied international backgrounds of the members add to their global appeal. Jennie, 26, was born in Seoul but moved to New Zealand as a child. Rosé, 25, was born in Auckland and raised in Melbourne. Lisa, 25, is Thai and grew up in Thailand; she was the first nonethnically Korean trainee signed to YG's label. Jisoo, 27, is from Gunpo, a small city in South Korea, and the only one of the four who has lived in the country all her life. "We're all from different cultures," Rosé says. Their differences, she says, are "only a plus," especially in the studio.

When they officially debuted in 2016, it was as YG's first girl group in seven years. To K-pop fans, this was a big deal: YG was known for creating stars, and Blackpink's debut was widely anticipated. But the reception to their first singles, the dance-floor-ready, fast-paced "Whistle" and "Boombayah," was tremendous. Blackpink has a specific brand of catchy, glittery, and bombastic hip-hop-tinged pop with high-impact aesthetics, often showing up in sparkly designer clothes; in their biggest hits, Jennie and Lisa rap while Rosé and Jisoo sing, each of them emanating a strong dose of cool-girl attitude. They quickly developed a loyal fandom, called Blinks, and a massive following on social media. They stood out to U.S. label Interscope, which partnered with YG in 2018 to manage Blackpink's business outside Asia. Interscope CEO and chairman John Janick attributes their popularity to the "meticulous" approach they take to their music: "I think that really sets them apart."

But the music alone does not account for Blackpink's massive visibility, Janick says: "They're all four stars in their own way." For instance, Jennie's early solo project "Solo" was an unflinching hip-hop banger, continuing to subvert expectations about what a female K-pop star could sound like. In 2023, the Chanel ambassador will appear in HBO's *The Idol,* alongside the Weeknd. Lisa, who reps the luxury brand Celine, has released two solo songs that reflect her knack for hip-hop-influenced earworms. Jisoo made her acting debut on the drama *Snowdrop,* and with 66 million Instagram followers became the platform's most-followed Korean actress. Rosé, whose 2021 singles "On the Ground" and "Gone" charted highly globally, made a splash at the Met Gala last year, in a dress by Saint Laurent, for whom she is a brand ambassador. All four have attended various Fashion Week shows this year: "Being able to go to Paris and see our fans in person for the first time since the pandemic—it was very memorable for me," says Jisoo. (Influencer marketing platforms calculated that Jisoo topped celebrities like Kylie Jenner at the recent Paris shows, with an earned media value of over $22 million, boosting sales for her brand partner Dior by over $45 million.)

Side pursuits aren't rare for K-pop groups—see the seven members of BTS now pursuing solo paths—but the scale of Blackpink's successes, and the cohesion they maintain while regularly doing their own things, may very well be exceptional. As Minsuk Yang, CEO of YG, puts it, "Blackpink will continue to play its role as a trendsetting icon, not only in music, but also in beauty, fashion, and other industries."

AS THE YEAR CLOSES, the group isn't slowing down. It still has more than 20 dates on its tour with stops from Berlin to Bangkok this winter alone. It's an arduous undertaking, even for pros used to this kind of thing. When Blackpink first toured in the U.S. in 2019, the intensity of the calendar took its toll; in a hit Netflix documentary released in 2020, they can be seen struggling with the relentless schedule. This time they are better prepared. "Now we know how to take care of ourselves a little better," says Jennie. "We try to be prepared in terms of our health and our mental health." The pandemic not only offered a chance to rest and focus on solo projects, but also increased the fans' desire to see them return to the stage. That excitement is clear in the euphoria of concert attendees who have waited years to see their favorites dance to "How You Like That" and "DDU-DU DDU-DU." "Being able to come back with the team to tour and meet the fans worldwide has been a highlight," Lisa says.

Despite all this pressure, their focus is laser sharp—and short-term. "My No. 1 rule is not to look ahead, and enjoy every day, because it gets too overwhelming once we start planning a year ahead, two years ahead," says Jennie. Popularity is a tricky, fast-paced game. For Blackpink, the way forward is sticking together, allowing one another the space to grow—and keeping people guessing about what's next. Their ambition may be limitless, but they need to pace themselves too: "I just want everyone in one piece," says Jennie. Who are they, really? "Four rock stars," Rosé says, succinct and to the point. "There we go," says Jennie, as Rosé, Lisa, and Jisoo nod and laugh. "That's our answer." *—With reporting by* SOLCYRE BURGA *and* ARIA CHEN


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Best of Culture

THE MOVIES, TV SHOWS, AND BOOKS THAT CAPTIVATED OUR ATTENTION IN 2022



Cate Blanchett is unforgettable in Tár

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM CRAIG

Movies

BY STEPHANIE ZACHAREK

1. THE FABELMANS

STEVEN SPIELBERG has been making movies for more than 50 years, and there are autobiographical touches in many of them. But *The Fabelmans* is his most personal film to date, one that reckons with the bittersweet truth of how families endure even in the midst of stress and crisis. Michelle Williams and Paul Dano star as Mitzi and Burt Fabelman, stand-ins for Spielberg's real-life parents. Their performances are among the year's best, delicately textured and deeply moving.

2. Aftersun

As kids, we have no idea how our feelings about our parents will take shape when we ourselves are grown up. That's the territory Scottish writer-director **Charlotte Wells** explores in her stunning debut. Eleven-year-old Sophie (Frankie Corio) goes on a rare holiday break with her father Calum (the extraordinary Paul Mescal), during which she begins to see his flaws and his suffering. The subtle aftershocks of this intimate, beautifully wrought picture linger long after you've finished watching it.

3. ARMAGEDDON TIME

In this semiautobiographical drama from **JAMES GRAY,** a smart but smart-alecky Queens sixth-grader, Banks Repeta's Paul, befriends one of the few Black kids in his class, Jaylin Webb's Johnny, even as he remains clueless about the specific realities of his friend's life. Humans like to brag about the times they did the right thing, but memories of the times we failed to act are the most haunting of all. Gray reckons with those failures—and doesn't offer easy self-forgiveness.

4. ELVIS

BAZ LUHRMANN's *Elvis* is less a straightforward biopic of Elvis Presley than a sequined jumpsuit in movie form: impractical but flattering, and built to accommodate giant leaps of imagination. Austin Butler, his eyes as soft as a sigh of longing, conjures both the carnal majesty and the dreamy sadness of Elvis. This movie is nuts. But it's also filled with love for a king we didn't deserve.

5. HAPPENING

Even if it weren't so timely, French director **AUDREY DIWAN**'s *Happening* would still be a tense and quietly radical piece of work. Adapted from the 2000 memoir by Annie Ernaux, the picture is both forthright and moving in its exploration of what an unwanted pregnancy can mean to a woman.

6. TÁR

Cate Blanchett's turn as tyrannical, magnificent (and fictional) orchestra conductor Lydia Tár is so vivid you'd almost believe she's a real person. **TODD FIELD** has made an ambitious film about the ruthlessness of artists. But it's also about art as sustenance—fuel for survival in a sometimes merciless world.

7. EO

We know so little about the inner lives of animals; science can tell us only so much. At age 84, Polish director **JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI** has given us



Aftersun star Paul Mescal

PREVIOUS PAGE: TRUNK ARCHIVE



PHOTOGRAPH BY ISAAC ANTHONY

a movie about the odyssey of a donkey named EO, who finds both kindness and the lack of it on a trek from Poland to Italy. At times hard to watch, *EO* is a beautiful reminder that we need to look out for our animal friends with the utmost care.

8. IL BUCO

In 1961, a group of young speleologists trekked to the Calabrian countryside of southern Italy to explore Europe's deepest cave, stretching 700 meters below the earth's surface. Italian filmmaker **MICHELANGELO FRAMMARTINO** re-creates that exploration, framing the thrill of inquiry into nature's deepest secrets against the tumult of a rapidly changing world.

9. THE INSPECTION

Jeremy Pope gives a superb performance as a young gay man who enlists in the Marines, where he faces cruelty and bigotry but also finds a complex sense of belonging. Writer-director **ELEGANCE BRATTON** has drawn this story from his own experience, and rather than going for the easy answers, he roots out the hard questions. We all need to find our place in the world; no one ever said it would be simple.

10. ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED

In 2017 photographer Nan Goldin, having just finished a stint in rehab for OxyContin addiction, founded a group to force the Sackler family—art-world philanthropists and owners of Purdue Pharma—to reckon with their role in the opioid crisis. Directed by **LAURA POITRAS,** this documentary is both a portrait of an artist and a testament to the power of passionate activism.



Britt Lower broke out in 2022 with her haunting portrayal of a new hire on Severance

Television

BY JUDY BERMAN

1. BETTER CALL SAUL

One of TV's most visually gorgeous, carefully plotted, emotionally involving sagas ended this year, with the finale of *Breaking Bad* prequel *Better Call Saul.* Vince Gilligan and Peter Gould's lawyer show about the inevitable perversion of justice surpassed even its predecessor, thanks largely to superb lead performances by Bob Odenkirk and Rhea Seehorn as two characters trying to be good people who can't find a way to be good together. For all its blood and death, *Saul* was the most fundamentally humanistic drama of its time. *(AMC)*

2. THE REHEARSAL

In the year's best nonfiction show, *Nathan for You* creator and star Nathan Fielder helped regular people "rehearse" for tough encounters. Well, that was the premise. Then things got messy, calling into question the extent of Fielder's behind-the-scenes manipulations, how acclimated viewers had become to the routine deceptions of reality TV, and whether we can game out real-life risks without harming those we enlist to help. *(HBO)*

3. Severance

First-time creator Dan Erickson's dystopia about workers who have their consciousnesses surgically bifurcated isn't just a sharp satire of corporate overreach; it's proof that there's still room on TV for ambitious, original, character-driven dramas that take on urgent social issues. *(Apple TV+)*

4. RESERVATION DOGS

Sterlin Harjo and Taika Waititi's groundbreaking dramedy about teens growing up on an Oklahoma reservation in the wake of their lifelong friend's suicide couldn't have gotten off to a stronger start last year. Even so, the show improved in its sophomore season, using viewers' familiarity with the Rez Dogs, their families, and other local characters to expand its funny, poignant portrait of the community. *(FX)*

5. THIS IS GOING TO HURT

In its unvarnished depiction of inequality in health care, this British import starring Ben Whishaw as an over-worked ob-gyn at a public hospital brought rare honesty to a cliché-ridden medical-drama genre that celebrates hero doctors at the expense of telling the truth about their real-life counterparts' working conditions. But it isn't all misery; it preserves the biting humor of its source material, a memoir by Adam Kay, and Whishaw disappears into the role of a prickly young gay man with one foot out of the closet. *(AMC+)*

6. BETTER THINGS

An auteur's magnum opus. A very funny comedy. An art film for the small screen. A sharp commentary on Hollywood misogyny and ageism. The best show about single motherhood. Pamela Adlon's *Better Things* was all of this in its final season. Just as her alter ego was always juggling responsibilities, Adlon juggled her characters' internal lives, holding space for each perspective. *(FX)*

7. ATLANTA (SEASON 4)

In episodes that ranged from an acerbic mockumentary about a fictional Black Disney CEO to a poignant camping-trip romance, *Atlanta*'s final season took a wild ride to the intersection of Blackness, wealth, fame, and artmaking. Along with keen social commentary and surreal humor, creator and star Donald Glover gave each of his central characters the thoughtful resolution they deserved. *(FX)*

8. DERRY GIRLS

Lisa McGee's beloved comedy about five teens growing up in Troubles-stricken 1990s Northern Ireland juxtaposed the grim daily realities of a world-historical conflict with the bubbly self-involvement of high schoolers, yielding one of the funniest shows you'll ever see. This year's final season was a particular stunner, filled with road-trip misadventures, A-list guest stars, and first love. *(Netflix)*

9. MADE FOR LOVE

In a tumultuous year for tech, no satire of the industry hit harder than Alissa Nutting's adaptation of her own 2017 novel, which got smarter, weirder, and darker in a second (and final) season set within a multibillionaire CEO's corporate HQ/dream home/prison. The result was a witty, trenchant, sometimes harrowing allegory for Big Tech's dangerous conflation of love and control. *(HBO Max)*

10. RAP SH!T

Issa Rae's Miami-set hip-hop comedy proved she doesn't have to be onscreen to make something great. Aida Osman and KaMillion shone as old friends whose lives converge after a late-night freestyle propels them to fame as a rap duo. The regional details are on point, the songs are radio-ready, and the overall effect is as fresh as its heroines' rhymes. *(HBO Max)*

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALLEGRA MESSINA

Books

BY ANNABEL GUTTERMAN



• Fiction •

1. TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW

GABRIELLE ZEVIN's sweeping novel follows the decades-long friendship between two video-game designers who become household names before they turn 25. As the duo wrestle with their growing ambitions, Zevin unveils a devastating narrative about identity and art, and depicts a creative partnership that is much more meaningful than any romance.

2. THE HERO OF THIS BOOK

ELIZABETH MCCRACKEN delivers a potent meditation on processing loss through the fictional (or is it?) story of an unnamed writer coping with her mother's recent death. McCracken, who shares many life experiences with her narrator, makes startling revelations about how fiction can reveal the biggest truths about life, and what it really means to write.

3. THE BOOK OF GOOSE

In **YIYUN LI**'s taut novel, Agnès has just learned her childhood best friend is dead, forcing her to reflect on their co-dependent relationship and strange coming-of-age in wartime France. Li builds a dark, fairy-tale-like world with suspenseful twists and turns as Agnès wrestles with her past and wonders how much of her identity belongs to someone else.

4. All This Could Be Different

The tender debut novel from **Sarah Thankam Mathews** centers on Sneha, a recent college graduate navigating her new life in the Midwest. As Sneha finally faces deeply buried trauma, an incisive coming-of-age narrative emerges.

5. VLADIMIR

The snarky protagonist of **JULIA MAY JONAS**' electric debut novel is a college professor who is crushing hard on her department's new recruit. As she grows closer to the recent hire, her desire overtakes her, an obsession that Jonas captures in this wild narrative about power and politics on campus.

6. IF I SURVIVE YOU

The eight linked stories in **JONATHAN ESCOFFERY**'s kaleidoscopic debut collection center on Trelawny, the son of Jamaican immigrants living in Miami. Escoffery writes with urgency and heart as he illustrates his protagonist's struggles to fit in, especially as his family falls apart in the wake of a devastating hurricane and recession.

7. YOUNG MUNGO

The highly anticipated follow-up to **DOUGLAS STUART**'s *Shuggie Bain* is another visceral depiction of late 20th century Glasgow, this time centered on the impossible first love between two teenage boys. In describing their plight, Stuart illuminates the struggles faced by queer men choosing to follow their hearts in the face of homophobia and toxic masculinity.

8. LESSER KNOWN MONSTERS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

The 12 stories that make up **KIM FU**'s bold collection feature characters dealing with scenarios that linger between reality and fantasy. In the spaces where lines blur, from a girl growing wings to an insomniac being visited by a sandman, Fu points to the very human crises that sit below the surreal surface.

9. TRUST

Whom can you rely on to tell a story? This question is the driving force behind **HERNAN DIAZ**'s innovative novel, which features four interconnected narratives, all centered on a wealthy couple in 1920s New York. In uncovering the answer, Diaz writes a dazzling story about perception, greed, and marriage.

10. SIGNAL FIRES

DANI SHAPIRO's first novel in 15 years follows the aftermath of a fatal car accident. The details of what happened are kept secret—and haunt one family forever. As Shapiro flips between past and present, she creates a moving portrait of guilt, grief, and fate to show how life is made up of moments beyond our control—and that it takes only a second for everything to change.

SARAH THANKAM MATHEWS: DONDRE STUETLEY; IMANI PERRY: JAY L. CLENDENIN—LOS ANGELES TIMES/CONTOUR RA/GETTY IMAGES



Debut novelist Sarah Thankam Mathews



Academic and writer Imani Perry

• Nonfiction •

1. IN LOVE

After **AMY BLOOM**'s husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, she supported him through the decision to end his life on his own terms. Her memoir is a beautiful tribute to their marriage, and a crucial reminder of the relationship between grief and love.

2. *South to America*

Imani Perry takes a tour of the American South to argue that associations made with those states, with racism at their core, are essential to understanding the country as a whole. The result is a revelatory account of the South's ugly past—the Civil War, slavery, and Jim Crow laws—and how that history still reverberates today.

3. DUCKS

In her graphic memoir, **KATE BEATON** reflects on her time working in the Canadian oil fields to pay off her student loans. Beaton makes stunning observations about the intersections of class, gender, and capitalism.

4. THE ESCAPE ARTIST

JONATHAN FREEDLAND's biography of Rudolf Vrba, one of the first Jews to break out of Auschwitz, spares no detail about the Holocaust's brutalities. It's a skillfully rendered look inside the journey of a 19-year-old who risked his life to warn the world about what he endured.

5. AN IMMENSE WORLD

Journalist **ED YONG**'s book is a celebration of sights and sounds, smells and tastes, and the ways different animals exist on the planet we all share. Yong blends scientific study and elegant prose to transform textbook fodder into an exciting read.

6. CONSTRUCTING A NERVOUS SYSTEM

In her second memoir, Pulitzer Prize winner **MARGO JEFFERSON** brilliantly interrogates and expands the form. Jefferson oscillates between criticism and personal narrative, reflecting on performance, artistry, and the act of writing.

7. HIS NAME IS GEORGE FLOYD

ROBERT SAMUELS and **TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA** expand on their reporting on the murder of George Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin in their biography of the former. They explore, in compassionate terms, how the life of a father and friend was shaped by systemic racism, and how his death became a global symbol for change.

8. HOW FAR THE LIGHT REACHES

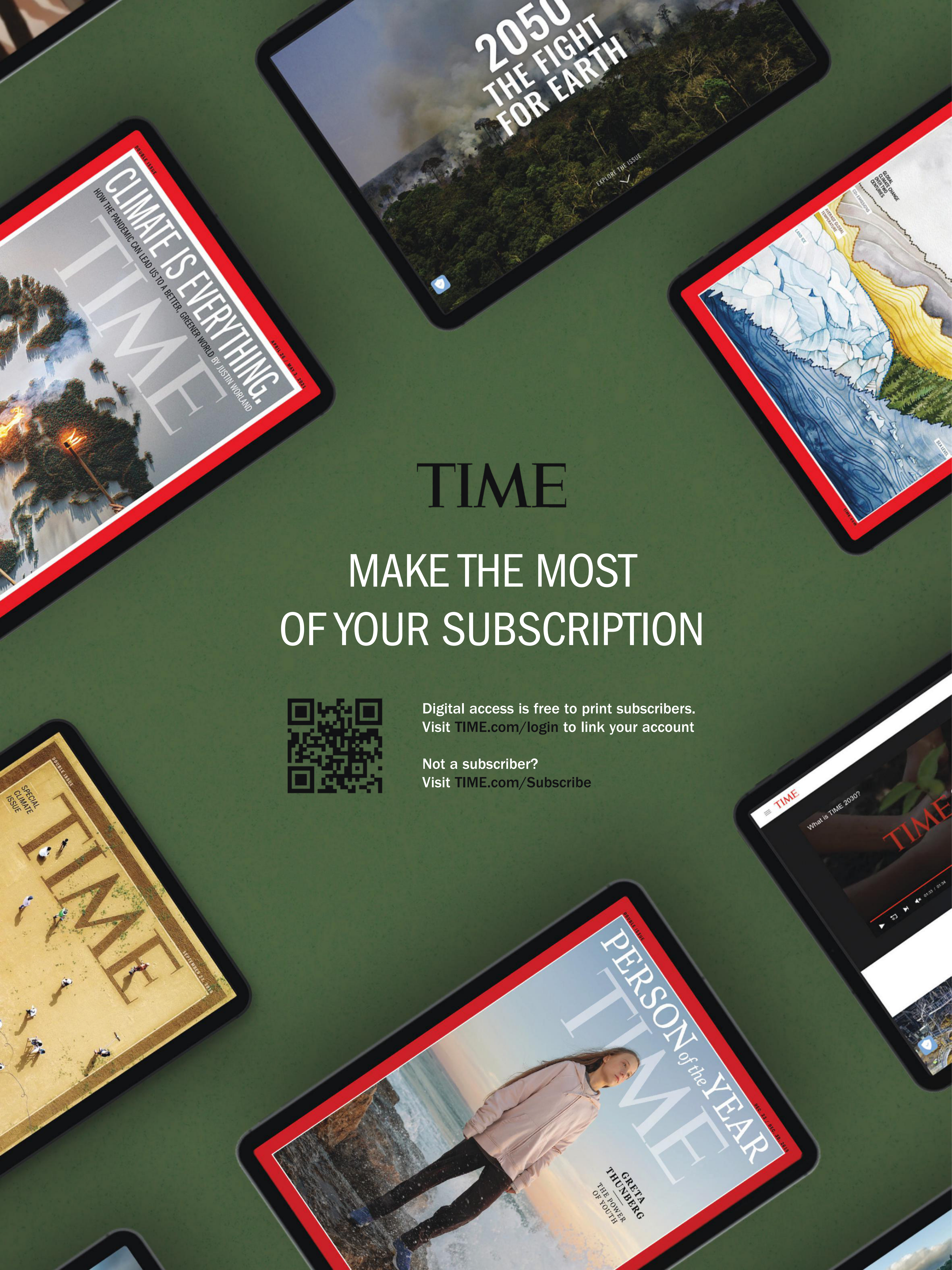
SABRINA IMBLER thoughtfully examines connections between science and humanity in 10 dazzling essays, each a study of a different sea creature. Throughout, Imbler reveals the surprising ways that these creatures can teach us about family, sexuality, and survival.

9. THE INVISIBLE KINGDOM

MEGHAN O'ROURKE's reported memoir is an indictment of the U.S. health care system's approach to diagnosing and treating chronic illnesses. With an empathetic hand, O'Rourke argues for why we need to change our systems to better support patients.

10. THE REVOLUTIONARY

Pulitzer Prize winner **STACY SCHIFF** revisits Samuel Adams' clandestine work in the years leading up to 1776 to show how vital he was to American independence, crafting an intricate portrait of a man long overshadowed by his contemporaries.


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Mickey Guyton

Breakthrough of the Year

BY ANDREW R. CHOW



THIS YEAR, THE COUNTRY SINGER Mickey Guyton represented America on its biggest stages, belting out the national anthem at the Super Bowl and hosting PBS's July 4 celebration from the Capitol Lawn. She also became the first Black nominee for Best Country Album at the Grammys in the award's history.

But Guyton faced plenty of resistance: to her music being played on country radio; to conversations she tried to hold about race with industry leaders; to the representational gains that seemed to vanish two years after the racial reckoning in the summer of 2020. "I am seeing it very much going back to your regularly scheduled programming, and that's something I'm scared about," she says.

Guyton opened up to TIME about her year of growth and frustration.

When you walked into SoFi Stadium to sing for more than 110 million Super Bowl viewers, what was going through your head?
It was the most nervous I've ever been. I felt like I was about to give birth for the first time or walk down the aisle and get married to the wrong guy. It's really hard right now with what's going on in this country. I wanted to be proud of singing the national anthem. So if you had noticed the choir, it was really important to show what I saw America as. We chose someone with a disability, a Black trans woman, an Asian man.

In 2020, you released the song "Black Like Me," a condemnation of racial inequality. How do you think it changed, or didn't change, race dynamics in country music?
I had so many country artists behind the scenes reach out to me, wanting to have conversations on what they could do. A lot of them did start finding musicians of color for their bands. There's a drummer named Elizabeth Chan who played with me, who you now see at every country-music award show. Also, there are a lot more Black country artists that have loved the genre but didn't think there was a space for them that are migrating to Nashville. But if you study the country-music charts, they're against women and people of color.

All of the No. 1s on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart this year were performed by white men.
It's f-cking frustrating. There are so many incredible singers out there, and we're just accepting the crumbs. I keep thinking to myself, I know some of you have daughters. And people get really upset when you talk about it. They're just tired of hearing it. But these are people's livelihoods and careers that you're deciding. You need to give your listeners a little more credit.

What is the significance of your new song "I Still Pray"?
I wrote this song after the shooting at that grocery store in Buffalo in May. I was so affected by it. This song has an importance because I literally don't have the answers. I've spent so many years outraged by everything, and I don't have the ability to be outraged anymore because it's so exhausting. The song is a message of, whoever you believe in, help us right now. Because we need it.

How has motherhood informed your creative process?
I can sing about heartbreak—which I'm great at—but having a child really changes your whole perspective of everything. Our souls picked each other, and he is going to continue on when I'm going to be gone. I'm thinking a lot about that in my songwriting now. I'm singing about love, because that's what I'm surrounded by in the end. ☐

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC RYAN ANDERSON FOR TIME

CHINA WATCH
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The crystal clear water reflects the dreamlike sceneries of the forest in Jiuzhaigou, a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site since 1992. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Mother nature unmakes, mother nature remakes

Beauty spot devastated by earthquake has regained its former splendor

BY XU LIN

From late May to early June, Luo Pingzhao, 36, often visits the picturesque Jiuzhaigou National Park in Sichuan province to watch birds with his binoculars.

It is the best season to watch both migratory and resident birds there. The region has 27 species of birds under first- and second-class state protection in China.

Records show that it's probably the only place in China to watch the endangered migratory bird the rufous-headed robin, which has a signature song and is quick in movement.

Like Luo, many avid bird watchers regard Jiuzhaigou, which literally means nine-village valley, as a must-visit destination to observe some of China's endemic bird species.

In 1992, Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List as it met the criterion of "containing superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance".

It is known for its scenic and aesthetic majesty, with a wonderland landscape of gemlike and clear lakes, waterfalls and karst formations, along with the jagged alpine mountains.

Tourism has become the pillar industry of Jiuzhaigou, greatly benefiting the local villagers.

"The development of the region is always based on protection," says Du Jie, deputy head of the Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area Administration.

In 2001, the administration adopted a regulation making it mandatory for tourists staying overnight to remain outside the scenic area, and homestays and restaurants that had opened in the early days were closed.

On Aug. 8, 2017, a magnitude 7 earthquake hit the area, leaving the significant landscape of Jiuzhaigou with scars caused by landslides, falling rocks and debris flows.

The park was closed for two years until it was announced that 85% of the park would be accessible to tourists again. Last year it was fully open to visitors after much of its fragile beauty had recovered.

"To the human eye, the unique scenery of Jiuzhaigou has been almost restored to its former glory — about the same as before the earthquake," Du says.

Three months after the earthquake, the administration issued a detailed plan to restore the landscape, wildlife habitat and vegetation cover, with the goal that the recovery should rely mainly on nature's self-healing ability, supplemented by necessary manual intervention.

"It's a big challenge to explore the recovery mode, and we try to enhance Jiuzhaigou's value as the restoration proceeds," Du says.

The park needs to comply with UNESCO conventions on protecting the site to retain its outstanding universal value, as well as Chinese laws and regulations on ecological management.

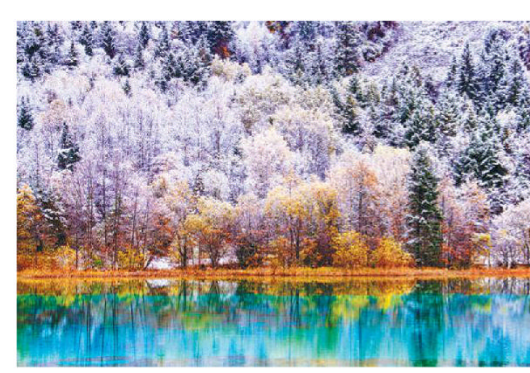
"We undertake proper manual intervention if a potential danger threatens the safety of human beings or affects the park's integrity," he says.

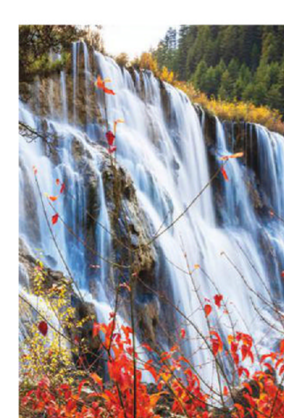
The embankment of the area's Sparkling Lake collapsed after the earthquake, forming a 131-ft.-long, 39-ft.-wide and 49-ft.-deep gap around it. There are 24 waterfalls and lakes around the site.

"The waterfalls and lakes looked like a necklace, and with one 'bead' missing, the whole necklace may be broken. The Sparkling Lake could have had



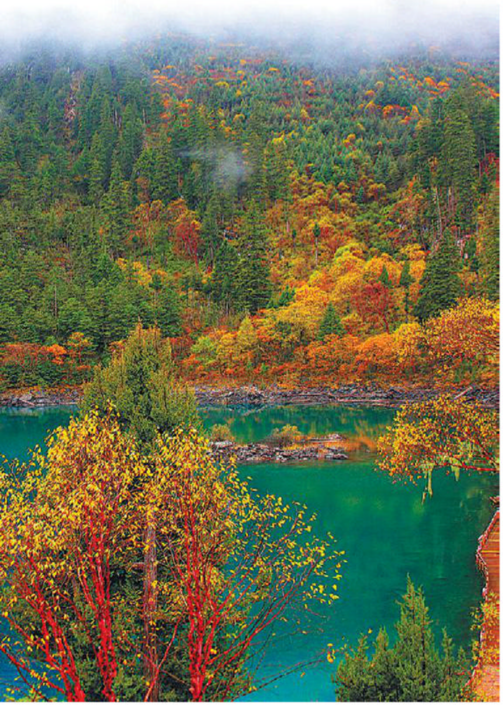






Above and right: Jiuzhaigou is known as a wonderland landscape of gemlike and clear lakes, waterfalls and karst formations, along with the jagged alpine mountains.

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a chain reaction and caused the collapse of other lakes, posing great danger to the people and wildlife in the lower reaches," he says.

A year was spent on research and developing a plan to restore the ecosystem with eco-friendly materials, with approval from the UNESCO.

Tang Ya, a professor of College of Architecture and Environment at Sichuan University, with others, has done in-depth research on the sustainable development of Jiuzhaigou since 2006.

Nuorilang Waterfall, one of the widest waterfalls in China, collapsed after the earthquake. A 63.6-ft.-long crack was formed, and Tang says that if the crack was left there, the erosion would have worsened, threatening the safety of the nearby lakes and waterfalls.

The unusual landscape of Jiuzhaigou is the result of its massive tufa (porous rocks) deposits, and the administration has fixed the crack with tufa collected after the quake, successfully restoring the scenery of Nuorilang.

To prepare against natural disasters, it also established a system to monitor geological hazards, built shelters and constructed architecture thought to be resistant to up to magnitude 8 quakes.

Huang Zhiling contributed to the story.

Panda protector relishes his life on the wild side

BY WANG QIAN

The day starts early for Shi Xiaogang, a wildlife ranger at the Wolong National Nature Reserve in Sichuan province. Before 6 a.m., he is ready and geared up, carrying a backpack weighing about 44 pounds.

Shi's team, usually consisting of 10 rangers, conducts long range patrols, lasting up to two weeks, in some of the most extreme environments in the reserve. Every year, they spend more than 200 days on the front line of wildlife conservation.

As head of the reserve's Mujiangping protection station, Shi monitors the population of giant pandas and snow leopards, helps mitigate human-animal conflict and educates local communities. It is a challenging and often a dangerous job.

Throughout his 30-year career, the senior ranger has frequently put his life on the line to protect Wolong's endangered wildlife. "In the wild, you must be prepared for the toughest situation, such as landslides, avalanches or even a vicious wild animal," he says.

Wolong, covering about 494,200 acres, is home to one of the largest remaining numbers of giant pandas in China. Thanks to rangers such as Shi, the number of wild giant pandas in the reserve has increased from 104, according to the fourth national panda survey published in 2015, to 149, says a DNA-based study published last year. In 2016, the International Union for Conservation of Nature announced that the giant panda's status had been changed from "endangered" to "vulnerable" on the its Red List of Threatened Species.

The reserve, in addition to being known as "the home of giant pandas", is widely regarded as a "bio-gene bank". It features a great number of endemic and threatened species of plants and animals, including other iconic animals, such as the red panda, the snow leopard and the clouded leopard among the 121 species of mammals recorded. There are 392 bird species recorded.

To mark their hard work and contribution to wildlife protection in the reserve, Shi's 20-member squad was recognized with special commendations at an online ceremony for the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas' International Ranger Awards last year.

Kathy MacKinnon, head of the commission, speaks highly of the rangers' work, saying they are "critical to our global conservation efforts, helping to stem biodiversity loss and protect the important ecosystems that serve as natural solutions to climate change and other global challenges".

Shi realizes that through protecting endangered animals such as giant pandas and snow leopards, the rich biodiversity of the environment can be maintained.

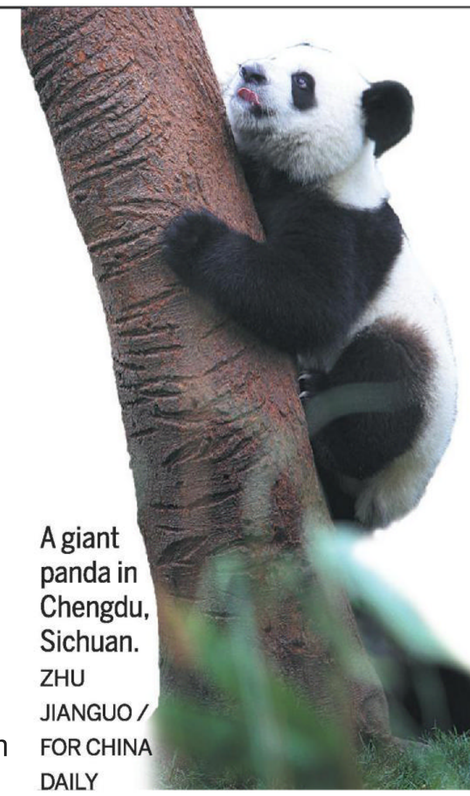
After Shi graduated from Sichuan Forestry School in 1992, he became a forest guardian at the Wolong National Natural Reserve. He worked on the third and fourth national panda surveys.

Wolong, established in 1963, is the country's earliest panda reserve. In 1978, an observation tent, claimed to be the country's first field camp to study wild giant pandas, was built on a steep forested slope in the reserve.

In the early 1980s, the government worked with the World Wide Fund for Nature to establish the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda to save the endangered animal.

In the eyes of Zhang Hemin, the center's founder and former deputy director, the center confirms that China views the scientific protection and research of giant pandas from a global perspective.

Researchers of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences found that the ancestor of the giant panda is the *Ailurarctos*, which lived about 8 million years ago. Treated as a national treasure, giant pandas have been one of the flagship species to be protected by the Wolong rangers.



A giant panda in Chengdu, Sichuan. ZHU JIANGUO / FOR CHINA DAILY

Building a "harmonious relationship" between wildlife and the locals has long been a part of the conservation work. Shi tries to educate communities and work with private groups to provide employment opportunities for locals.

To better know and protect the giant pandas, the reserve's authorities initiated a large-scale survey into the number of wild giant pandas and their habitat in 2017.

The estimate of 149 giant pandas living in the wild in Wolong is arrived at by collecting fresh feces and DNA analysis, Shi says.

So far there have been more than 100 field observations and personnel patrols at Wolong, which are now equipped with modern observation equipment such as infrared cameras and GPS trackers. Staff members are also working on improving the monitoring system for panda habitats and establishing a DNA database for the species.

In October 2021, the Giant Panda National Park was established in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces, connecting giant panda habitats that originally belonged to 73 nature reserves. About 72% of the country's wild giant pandas are under the park's protection.

Nationwide, the number of wild giant pandas has risen from 1,114 in the 1980s to 1,864 today.

Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Covers

'If I need an inspiration or a way to articulate a feeling, I do one of three things—Watch a favorite *Grey's Anatomy* episode, listen to a speech or a podcast with Shonda Rhimes or read a profile about her.'

JANIE OCTIA of New York CIty, on Judy Berman's profile of TV showrunner Rhimes

'A forceful and thorough assessment of President Biden's challenged presidency to date.'

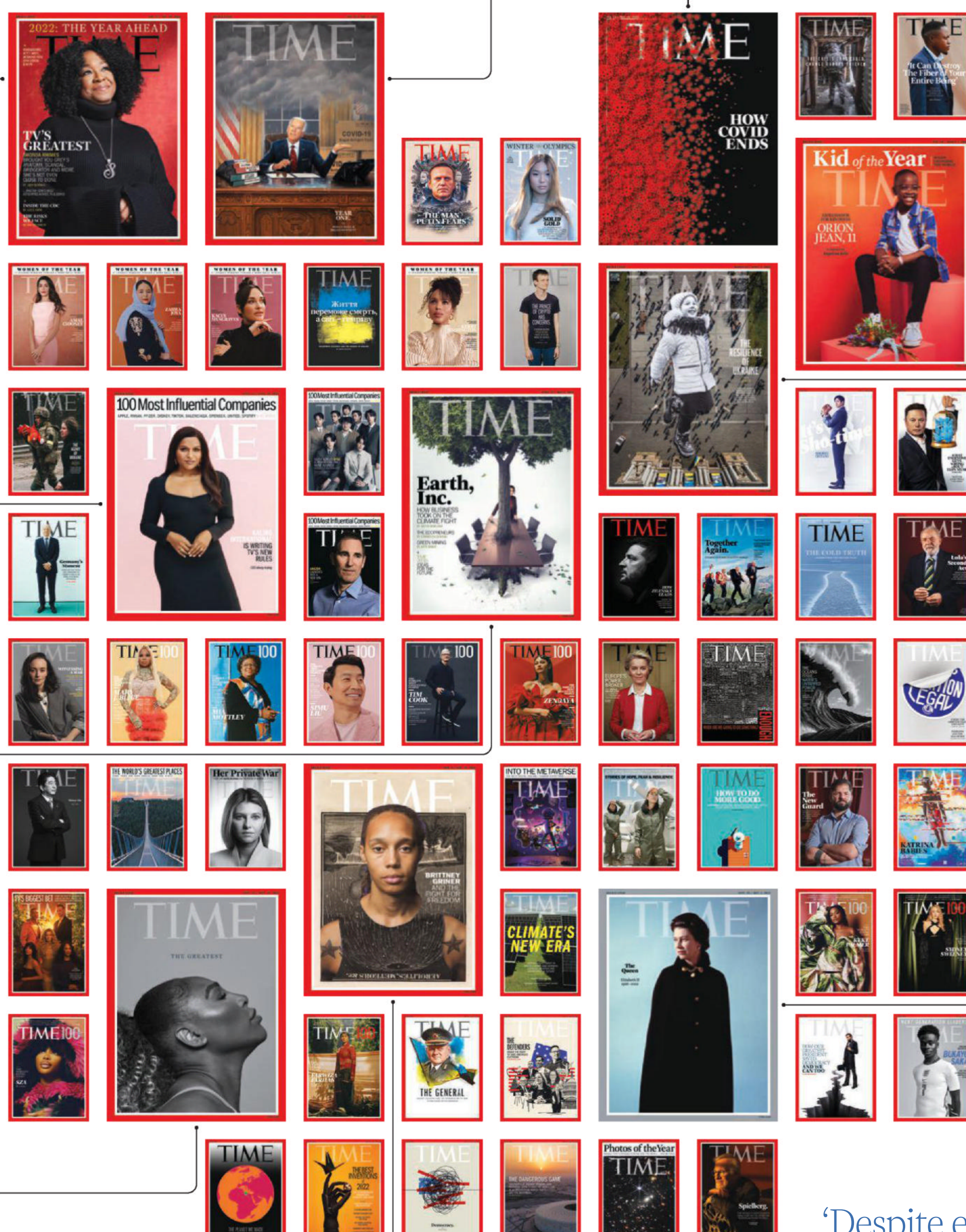
GEORGE KOEHLER of Grand Haven, Mich., on Molly Ball and Brian Bennett's analysis of Joe Biden's first year in office

'A great overview of the challenges patients … and specialized clinics face.'

DR. JASON H. MALEY of Boston, on Jamie Ducharme's report about Long COVID research

'I hope there are people out there—young women of color in particular—who see this cover, get inspired, and ask themselves "Why not me?"'

Actor and producer **MINDY KALING** on her cover appearance for TIME's list of 100 Most Influential Companies



'Kudos to TIME for featuring the accomplishments of kids and providing us all hope for a better future.'

PATRICIA McFEATERS of Oceanside, Calif., on Kid of the Year Orion Jean, 11, who runs food and book drives

'A beautiful example of public art meeting performance art meeting the moment.'

ADAM LEVINE of Denville, N.J., on the artist JR's display in Lviv of the image of a 5-year-old Ukrainian refugee

'Like it or not, companies will have to take (or share) the lead.'

ANDREW WINSTON of Greenwich, Conn., on Justin Worland's story about the private-sector response to climate change

'One of the most beautiful images ever captured.'

FELTON EDWARD KIZER of New Orleans, on the cover marking Serena Williams' retirement from tennis

'An example of a person held hostage by a state clearly signalling "we are doing this just because we can."'

IRINA KOSTYSHINA of Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sean Gregory's feature about WNBA star Brittney Griner's detention in Russia

'Despite everything going on in her own family and in her country, she just kept serving, kept trying, kept going. Carry on.'

PAUL BACON of Hallandale Beach, Fla., responding to the commemorative cover for Queen Elizabeth II


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